

INTERPRETER RELEASES

"To interpret the Immigrant to America and
America to the Immigrant"

Editorial Digest of the Foreign Language Press in America

Following digest is issued by the Foreign Language Information Service as part of its work of interpreting the immigrant to America to the immigrant. The Service is in daily touch with the press of sixteen foreign language groups in the United States, Danish, Finnish, German, Hungarian, Italian, Jewish, Jugoslav (Serbo-Croatian and Slovene), Lithuanian, Norwegian, Russian, Slovak, Swedish and Ukrainian. It aims to make the digest representative of current editorial comment. It is an information service solely, and assumes no responsibility for the opinions expressed.)

Editorial Digest No. 1

January 21st, 1924.

CHEERS AND JEERS FOR BOK PEACE PLAN

Prize Project To Abate Wars Divides Editors Of Foreign Language Press, But Greater Number Think It Worth While.

Every section of American thought and feeling about world peace, politics and diplomacy is reflected in discussions of the Bok peace plan now proceeding in the foreign language newspapers of the United States. The project submitted to a popular referendum is strongly approved by a safe plurality of journals examined by the Foreign Language Information Service. Yet the editors who write for the most numerous immigrant groups are so divided in opinion that one who reads their different newspapers will find it said of the plan that it

"Promotes the cause of peace."

"Sets a trap for the American people."

"Safeguards every American interest."

"Gives the Democrats an impelling campaign document."

"Constitutes propaganda for the Republican Party."

"Sets a goal worth striving for."

"Reveals poverty of statesmanship."

"Will be the foremost campaign issue."

"Is the best plan that could be devised."

"Is nothing but politics."

"Will be endorsed by an overwhelming majority."

"Is a big contribution to the cause of peace."

"Is better than nothing."

Sympathetic consideration of how the plan would affect their homelands in Europe is revealed in the comment of some editors,



but this influence is much more feeble than might be expected. In no one of the language groups is there a unanimous verdict either for or against the Bok project, and their grounds for differing on the issue are as varied and "domestic" as those found in the English language press. Endorsements and rejections are both printed in journals of the German, Polish, Russian and Jewish groups. Italian, Swedish, Finnish and Czech editors vary from staunch support to a condescending toleration of the plan.

"ISOLATION IMPOSSIBLE"

An end to American isolation, and future cooperation with the rest of the rest of the world through an instrument of the League of Nations (the World Court) is what all the editors interpret the Bok plan to mean. Says the independent Polish NOWY SWIAT, New York:

"Briefly speaking, the new peace plan takes us back to 1919 when Wilson signed the Covenant of the League of Nations and when the Republican majority in the Senate rejected it...The Republican Party was given power because the party egotism of big capital washed its hands (of Europe) like Pilate and propagated the policy of isolation. But humbug is short lived...In its own time politics, forced by circumstances, announced through the lips of our deceased President Harding that it was necessary for the United States to join the World Court. The propagators of egoistic isolation had to confess openly that even powerful America has no right to hold herself aloof and look calmly upon the chaos and disintegration of Europe. It is not altogether an accident that the peace plan selected by the Bok commission brings to the fore a question which the isolationists would like to bury...For our own part, we have never considered the League of Nations an ideal institution, but in spite of its great deficiencies the United States cannot boycott the League without doing harm both to Europe and to America if the thing be judged in the light of future events. No matter how cleverly devised, isolation cannot be maintained in these modern times."

In much the same vein the Democratic Polish DZIENNIK CHICAGOISKI refers to the plan as "like all other human advice, probably quite imperfect," adding: "It is practical, however; it foresees many things and is altogether American in that it combines idealism with common sense. It represents a very important contribution to the peace problem." Just as the United States hastened the end of the World War by entering that conflict, so will it now assist in establishing a firm peace by entering the World Court, says the independent Polish WIADOMOSCI CODZIENNE, Cleveland. "Poles should not treat the Bok peace plan with indifference," it warns... "We know how tragic the European situation is at the present time, and with it the situation of Poland." If the plan is approved by popular vote, the paper concludes,

Congress will understand that "the American people want to see their country cooperating with European nations in the establishing and maintenance of peace." Fear of the League will vanish, says the independent Polish PITTSBURGZANIN, "when the American people come to understand that, by reason of a social law of international gravitation, cooperation is absolutely unavoidable."

WILL EDUCATE POLITICIANS

"Those who strenuously voiced the policy of isolation do not express the sentiments of the American majority," the independent Czech NEW YORSKE LISTY believes, holding that "the Bok plan will undoubtedly be accepted by an overwhelming majority of votes." According to the independent Czech DENNI HLASATEL, of Chicago, "America must go where all the rest of the civilized world has gone" and "the Bok plan will bring to American politicians a very appreciable measure of such understanding." Another Czech paper, the independent SVET, Cleveland, thinks the total abolition of war is a long way off, but "a vote of favor of the Bok plan will be an expression of the desire for world peace, and such a manifestation as will not remain unnoticed in circles having the power to decide." The independent German NEW YORKER HEROLD believes world peace "will and must at some time or other become a reality" and it welcomes the Bok plan because "it keeps the question before the public eye," and finds it "a matter for rejoicing that Mr. Bok, who, by the way, is a naturalized citizen, offered his prize of \$100,000." Echoing the same sentiment, the German MILWAUKEE HEROLD finds that "regardless of what we may think otherwise of the plan, it has certainly promoted the cause of peace. The American public has been aroused."

The independent Jewish DAY, New York, laments because old prejudice and animosities surrounding the League of Nations issue have been dug up to cloud the merits of the Bok plan, an evil that it calls "typical of the way in which political thinking is done. There is no doubt that it is the best plan that could be elaborated under the conditions," says the same paper, "and one can see and feel that its author is well acquainted with international law, as well as with all phases of the disputed question." The Republican Swedish SKANDIA, Jamestown, New York, finds that the award jury is aiming at a high goal, but it adds: "The higher one

aims the higher one reaches, even if the goal is not reached at once. To bring the nations together at the table for discussion of problems of vital interest to us all is in itself a goal worth striving for, no matter what the result of such a conference may be." The independent Finnish PAIVALEHTI, Duluth, believes the good result of a favorable vote on the peace plan would be "to show the world that this country does not wish to live a separate and isolated existence." This unofficial referendum "will prove a testing stone of the international conscience of the American people," declares the Republican Hungarian SZABADSAG, Cleveland, adding that "if the people participate in adequate numbers we will see whether they really wish to be a cooperative factor in the world's progress or prefer to look out upon the storm of life from their well heated and more or less comfortably furnished homes." The plan would "safeguard the United States from the aftermath of European chaos, and at the same time assist European civilization to its feet," says the independent Russian NOVOYE RUSSKOYE SLOVO, New York, which is confident that "the generally peaceful temper of the country guarantees the approval of the plan by a vast majority."

FROM NAPOLEON TO BOK

General support of world peace in principle is often coupled with skepticism regarding how it is to be brought about. The CORRIERE D'AMERICA, New York, finds that the idea of peace is as old as war itself, and continues:

"In his Memoires written at St. Helena, Napoleon explained that all his bloody campaigns had no other purpose than to bring peace to the world...Edward Bok has thought of starting a public contest with a prize of \$100,000 for the best plan for maintaining peace in the world." Of the prize plan itself the same paper says: "It seems to us that the hundred thousand dollars should have been paid half to Hughes and half to Wilson, who originated the ideas to which the prize-winner has given nothing but his signature...No one can deny," the editor continues, "that active participation by the United States in the World Court or in the League of Nations would constitute a powerful contribution to the practical solution of international problems...But it all rests in the solution of the economic problem...If the 22,165 competitors for the Bok prize had not heard about the \$100,000 they would probably not have worried their heads at all about international peace. If they had carried this truth and sentiment into their projects they would have understood the secret of world peace."

"After all it is better that the United States should cooperate with the League of Nations even by means that are impractical and illogical than to make no effort at all to bring about peace in the world," concedes the Democratic Polish NOWINY POLSKIE, Milwaukee, and its independent contemporary, the Polish TELEGRAM,

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Buffalo, says it is glad to submit the plan to its readers, although it is "skeptical in regard to the idea, since war is a necessary evil and has its roots in human nature." The independent German ABENDPOST, Rochester, admits that "if the plan could be practically applied the wrongs that followed in the wake of the last war would be removed," but a plan which does not begin with "a revision of the Treaty of Versailles does not seem plausible to us." In the same group the NEW YORKER STAATSZEITUNG finds that the Bok prize judges are "particularly friends of France" and of the League. It holds that "a trap has been set for the American people," and calls for "a revision of the Treaty of Versailles and a reduction of the impossible demands upon Germany." Similarly, the Bok jury is held by the Republican German ABENDPOST, St. Louis, to be "not at all unfriendly to Poincare's venomous policy of hatred," and the plan "contains so desperately few new ideas as to arouse pity."

LEAGUE AND PEACE PLAN BOTH SCORNED

The plan is rejected by the independent Lithuanian VIENYBE, Brooklyn, because it leads toward the League of Nations, which America should not enter, it holds, until international jealousy is ended by abolition of tariff walls, natural resources are turned into national monopolies and the manufacture of armaments forbidden. Another Lithuanian paper, the Republican DRAUGAS, Chicago, calls the plan "mere propaganda for the League of Nations", charges the League with complete failure and says "it would be better to create a new instrument of world government." A referendum vote on the plan is called unnecessary by the Republican Hungarian AMERIKAI MAGYAR NEPSZAVA, New York, which says French militarism dominates the League of Nations, which "the American people have already rejected by a majority of seven million votes." The Republican Slovene GLAS SVOBODE, Chicago, finds there "can be no doubt about what the plan aims at," since "no sooner was it published than news came from Paris telling of 'the satisfaction felt by League of Nations officials.'" The Republican JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL, New York, is not surprised to hear that a big majority of ballots have been cast in favor of the plan, because "the voting is organized in the same way as for beauty contests in Atlantic City" and "can bring no better results than the

belittling in cheap magazines on who is the best movie artist?" It is agreed by the Jewish TAGMEISTER, New York, that "Mr. Bolt's way is a cheap one, reminding us of the Barnum and Bailey method, and does not correspond to the importance of the problem involved."

Radical editors spurn the project. The Lithuanian NEUJELPOS, Chicago, summarizes the contentions foisted by the peace plan, including the demand for a Congressional investigation, and again exclaims: "Instead of peace we have a scandal!" The only positive result seen by the Jewish FREIHEIT, New York is that the promoter of the plan "has received for his \$50,000 much publicity in America and the entire world as could not otherwise have been obtained by spending a million dollars." The Finnish INDUSTRIALISTI, Duluth, and the Russian RUSSKY GOLOS, New York, conclude their comment by finding that economic competition is the cause of war, and that international peace is impossible while the capitalist order exists.

REPUBLICAN POLITICS CHARGED

"This is politics," exclaims the Republican Polish DZIENNIK Z WIAZKOWY, Chicago, in a discussion which sets forth that "Mr. Beck has paid an unknown author a very large sum of money" for the purpose of "sounding out public opinion with regard to future party platforms." The plan is full of "Republican political calculations" in the opinion also of the Workers Party Lithuanian LAISVE, Brooklyn, which traces an alleged orientation by Presidents Harding and Coolidge in the direction of the League of Nations, and says the party leaders mean to stand in a position where they can say: "We are defending America from European complications and wars; we desire merely to enter an International Tribunal of the League of Nations and there to establish world peace." Against the League as offered by Woodrow Wilson the Republican Party waged a furious war," says the independent Czech DENNI HLASATEL, Chicago, but it finds the same party is now preparing a union with the League "under conditions that will be as painless as possible in order that members of the party may believe they were triumphant." In conflict with that view is a charge by the Republican Italian PROGRESSO, New York, that a "peace project based on the League of Nations will, in the minds of Wilson and the Democrats, furnish

the Democratic Party with an impelling argument in the campaign this year."

On the important point of final adoption by the Government of any volunteer peace plan, we are reminded by the independent Swedish OMAHA POSTEN that "it has never pleased either Congress or the Administration in Washington for outsiders to interfere with governmental problems and make suggestions for the conduct of our relations with other countries," Washington being "dogmatically faithful to the old opinion that everything worth while in the way of government must be born and worked out in Senate committees or at the Cabinet table."

FILE

FOREIGN LANGUAGE INFORMATION SERVICE
119 WEST FORTY-FIRST STREET, NEW YORK CITY

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Editorial Digest Vol. II No. 2

February 12, 1924.

WILSON MOURNED BY NEW AMERICANS

Widespread Homage Paid to War President by Editors of the Foreign Language Newspapers

Mourning caused by the death of former President Wilson is manifest widely in the foreign language newspapers of the United States. In all the immigrant groups he is described as a man who impressed his character and ideals upon the entire world and whose aspirations for mankind will continue to operate long after his untimely death. General bereavement voiced by foreign born editors is accompanied by interesting opinions respecting his contribution to the post-war condition of Europe.

ITALIAN GROUP

Wilson will always remain a great figure because the dreams he followed were so lofty, and because in the struggle he furnished hope and strength to hundreds of millions of people. By his dreams he made us win ... This President who wished to be remembered as the maker of peace between nations will, instead, be remembered as the great War President - IL CORRIERE D'AMERICA, New York.

In the pages of his books, filled with indescribable beauty and philosophy, will live forever his sublime moral qualities, never to be forgotten by any nation in the world. It is said he did not know how to follow his noble thought by prompt and efficacious action ... This is no time to criticise, nor is the day of his death an appropriate hour in which to praise him, for an unprejudiced and permanent estimate of statesmen can only be formed by history -- IL PROGRESSO, New York,

We join the rest of the country in sincere grief at the death of the great War President. His name will remain forever in American history, to be honored and loved throughout the centuries -- IL POPOLIO, New York.

Let us forgive Wilson his unrealized dreams and recognize the great accomplishments to his credit. We bow reverently before the hier of the great man who for eight years ruled the destinies of this nation with love and true American patriotism, and who helped to keep the name of America uppermost even in the most tumultuous moments of history -- L'ITALIA, Chicago.

POLISH GROUP

Poles will never forget what he did for them during the diplomatic battles, how earnestly he fought over every strip of Polish soil, just as if it were the soil of his own beloved land. - KURYER NARODOWY, New York

He will ever be remembered as one of the very outstanding Presidents of the United States, and by the Poles as a great friend and benefactor - the Great Liberator of Poland. - DZIENNIK ZWIĄZKOWY Chicago.

His emphatic declaration that every nation regardless of size must be given the same right of self-determination did more to shatter the Central European Powers than did the American Army. . . All honor to the worthy successor of Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln. - NOWY ŚWIAT, New York.

RUSSIAN GROUP

A crystally honest man, a great orator and tireless worker, Wilson fell a victim of his "theoretism" . . . Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt - Woodrow Wilson will rightfully occupy a place in the Pantheon of great Americans along with those departed Presidents - RUSSKY GOLOS, New York.

There were two Wilsons. One was a famous professor . . . The other was twice elected President of the United States. We remember this second Wilson because of his Fourteen Points. Each of them referred to the holiest dreams of suffering humanity. Yet each in fact served as a weapon for final enslavement of the defeated nations. - NOVY MIR, New York.

The vision of a "new humanity" possessed Woodrow Wilson. But against his will, through the machinations of Old World diplomacy, his high principles served only as a cloak for the very real interests of the Allies. The League of Nations is one illustration of this. Very little of the noble principles of Wilson were employed to make a better world. But in human history many examples exist wherein new ideas fare much better than their creators. - NOVOYE RUSSKOYE SLOVO, New York.

In the destructive fire of world war, when it seemed that every principle of humanity was forgotten and men resembled beasts bent only upon destruction, Wilson appeared with his purpose to create a new world. . . . But at Paris a struggle and a conspiracy against Wilson's ideals took place. The Peace of Versailles was not Wilson's peace. . . and even America refused to ratify his acts. Yet, while the other participants at the peace conference have gone into oblivion the name of Wilson will remain forever in the memory of a grateful humanity. - PRAVDA, Philadelphia.

CZECHOSLOVAK GROUP

To President Wilson, by the will of the Most High, it was given to carry the heaviest burden ever placed on the shoulders of anyone in our land since Abraham Lincoln. But there is this difference - while Lincoln belongs only to his native land, Wilson belongs to the whole world. . . . Eternal peace to his great memory. - NAROD, Chicago.

Wilson was the most significant representative of genuine Americanism, free of all prejudice and typifying humanitarian effort in the purest sense. . . . The sorrow of the American people over the death of its greatest son is likewise the deep sorrow of the Czechoslovak nation, not only in the little land beyond the sea, but in every person with a drop of Czechoslovak blood, wherever he may be. - NEW YORKSKE LISTY, New York

JUGOSLAV GROUP

Mr. Wilson was undoubtedly the most erudite of all the men who have been Presidents of the United States. In the history of all countries, and especially in the history of the United States, he will live as one of the greatest men of this world. His place is beside Washington, Jackson and Lincoln, or perhaps above them.- AMERISKA DOMOVINA, Cleveland.

The Jugoslav people will remember eternally and with pride that at the head of their fight for independence and unity there stood, until his last hour, the sublime figure of the great President - Woodrow Wilson.- SVIJET, New York.

Woodrow Wilson has passed on, fallen in humanity's fight. Let us temper our grief at this loss with the just pride in his achievements... To millions he will ever be a reminder of the spirit of America... Soldier of humanity, humanity salutes you! - SRPSKA STRAZA, New York.

By waging war he stopped the war, but he did not attain his goal. And why? Political democracy cannot come while economic absolutism exists... Future generations will judge him more accurately than is possible for us. - PROSVETA, Chicago.

He did not see all his ideals realized, but his work will live forever. Upon the foundation that he built a great structure will rise; a palace of peace and love among the nations of the world..- SRPSKI DNEVNIK, New York.

While his ideas were not materialized, and he came back from the field of battle defeated and broken, nevertheless we may be sure that the work Wilson began will some day bear fruit and bring to mankind that ideal of mutual content and happiness to which his soul aspired. - ENAKOPRAVNOST, Cleveland.

His promises he could not carry out, for, as the only honest man, he mingled with dishonest men; as an idealist he sat at the green table with criminal materialists; he tried to teach wolves the language of lambs... In American history he will find a place beside Washington and Lincoln.- GLAS NARODA, New York.

How much he contributed, what he contributed, and what it was all about future generations will tell. But America can already count him among her rare and unusual men.- HRVATSKI LIST, New York.

Death has claimed the greatest benefactor of the Jugoslav people... Washington and Lincoln belong to America, but Wilson belongs to the whole human race... Forever in the future, when an oppressed people claims the right to liberty they will evoke the name and memory of Woodrow Wilson. - HRVATSKI GLASNIK, Chicago.

UKRAINIAN GROUP

He was the first to conceive the plan for an international and interracial association... The time will come when through human cooperation and the working of moral forces such association will be a fact and imperialism will no longer be the aim and chief attribute of national politics... Woodrow Wilson will be remembered and revered as the first great though unsuccessful champion of international justice and peaceful cooperation. - NARODNA WOLA, Scranton.

Wilson talked of liberty, of democracy, of permanent peace, but all his efforts were in vain... The Don Quixote of twentieth century capitalism has passed away. In a desperate battle against the windmills and the intrinsic contradictions and inconsistencies of the capitalist system, the valiant knight has been crushed.- UKRAINIAN DAILY NEWS, New York.

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Editorial Digest Vol.II No. 3

February 29, 1924.

JOHNSON BILL VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED

Editorial Spokesmen For Immigrants From South And East Europe Denounce Theory And Aims of Proposed Law.

Determined opposition to the Johnson Immigration Bill, and strong denunciation of what they call its division of Europeans into "good" and "bad" races, are featured in the editorial comment of newspapers printed in the languages of East and South European immigrants in the United States. Typical reactions to the pending measure are contained in the following extracts from the Italian, Czechoslovak, Jewish, Jugoslav, Lithuanian, Russian, Polish and Hungarian press in America.

ITALIAN

1924

MAR

Speaking of his home town of Hoquiam, Mr. Johnson says: "I live in a region which more than any other place in the United States is infested by Industrial Workers of the World!" That means he lives in an exceptional place under exceptional circumstances. And his fierce quarrels with the I.W.W. in Hoquiam have engendered in him a personal hatred of so-called aliens, although the I.W.W. are not composed of aliens. It is not, then, America that requires a Johnson Bill; it is Albert Johnson's individual situation at Hoquiam... The political wrangles and struggles of an unknown and remote little town, still in its pioneer stage, must influence the destinies of hundreds of cities with their millions of inhabitants. Hoquiam shapes the country's future. Hoquiam rules! -- IL CORRIERE D'AMERICA, New York City. (Independent)

The foreigners in this country are accused of having socialistic and radical ideas. In New Zealand and in Australia, where on account of the extreme restriction of immigration the population is almost entirely Anglo-Saxon, there exists an advanced form of socialism. The present Johnson immigration project reveals an odious race prejudice. -- L'OPINIONE, Philadelphia, Pa. (Republican)

By the new bill, should it be passed, the total immigration from Italy will be cut down to one-fifth of the present total, and incidentally, Germany, will nearly double the present quota allowed her. We hold no brief against the Germans; we believe they make good citizens, but it is a peculiar state of mind in an American statesman who is willing to pass a law increasing the number of our late enemies admissible to America, when one of the nation's strongest Allies is given the proverbial "cold shoulder". We trust that this infamous bill will be killed in its present state. -- LA STAMPA UNITA, Rochester, N. Y. (Independent)

What is the reason for all the prejudice against the Italians, the Russians, the Poles and the Greeks? Anglo-Saxon America feels the ground slipping under its feet. It has been discovering for years that it cannot compete successfully with the races that come here in all earnestness to produce and contribute in terms of effective labor. It would close the doors to competition; it would destroy rather than meet it. There can be no sounder American policy than one based on equality of races and nationalities. Discriminatory legislation is un-American, inhuman and despicable. The Johnson Bill should be defeated. -- LA FOLLIA, New York City. (Republican)

Accusations made against the Italian immigrants have not been able to stand the honest criticism of unprejudiced persons. Illiteracy is one of the most frequent accusations made against Italian immigrants, but almost without exception every Italian immigrant today can write and read. Criminality is another mark set down against the immigrants of Italian origin. But statistics give undeniable facts in favor of the immigrants. The Italian workers are accused of being against the interests of the labor unions but we see without doubt that Italian workers enter the labor organizations and that they take active part in furthering the interests of these organizations. Some say that the Italians are intellectually inferior to other races and that they cannot have the same high standards of living. But when one sees the excellent progress made by the children of some ex-brick-layers, or ex-bootblacks, and when one sees how many Italians live in American centers surrounded with all sorts of American comforts, one cannot help but acknowledge that this accusation is ridiculous. Some others say that the Italians are not likely to assimilate. But the largest number of naturalized aliens last year were the Italians. The restrictive immigration laws may be justifiable but only when they are really equal for all nations. -- IL PROGRESSO, New York City. (Republican)

The restrictive immigration measures are caused by three egoisms:- the egoism of organized labor who fears European workers will cause lower wages; the egoism of race caused by those persons who seriously believe that the Anglo-Saxon is a superior race; the egoism of religion which is caused by Protestant bigots who fear the influence of Catholics, Jews and others. - L'UNIONE, San Francisco, Calif. (Democrat)

CZECHOSLOVAK

The Outstanding feature of the Johnson-Davis bills is that they are directed against all Slavs and against the Latin nations. The Czechoslovak National Alliance is preparing an English brochure to show that Americans of Czechoslovak descent are definitely and effectively contributing to the upbuilding and improvement of America wherever they are located. They will show in what degree and manner the people of Czechoslovak blood aided in winning the World War, how very little they draw on public charity, the thrift of the nation through actual deposits and purchase of government, state, county and city mortgages and notes through which schools and other public buildings and roads are built. -- KAROD (Czech) Chicago, Ill. (Independent)

It is noteworthy that the Johnson Bill is based on the unjust conclusions supplied by Prof. H.H.Laughlin and is supported by all the reactionary forces in our land, chief among which are the Ku Klux Klan nativists - the most radical of American chauvinists. -- SPRAVEDLHOST (Czech) Chicago, Ill. (Workers Party)

During the war the American papers and public speakers patted us Czechoslovaks on the back and pointed out how loyally the sons of our immigrants enlisted and how zealously they served in the American Army. But now, under the provisions of the Johnson bill, it is publicly proclaimed that immigrants from lands of their fathers are undesirable and in the future their number is to be drastically decreased. All this is a result of the propaganda of avowed enemies of immigration - the Ku Klux Klan, the American Federation of Labor and even the American Legion in which our sons served, tens of thousands of them enlisting and not waiting for the draft. -- DENNI HLASATEL (Czech) Chicago, Ill. (Independent)

Basing the quota on the census of 1890 is most manifestly unjust to the Czechs and Slovaks the former of whom despite their protests were regularly listed by the average ignorant census taker as Austrians, and the latter as Hungarians or Magyars. Only the man or woman who knew how to express himself in vehement English was correctly entered as a Czech or Slovak by the census man, and that only after long explanations of the character and national make-up of the various parts of the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy. For that reason we assert that the Czechoslovak quota as based on the 1890 census is unjust and unfair. It is unfair to many other nationalities besides the Czechoslovaks. -- SVET (Czech) Cleveland, Ohio. (Independent)

Contrary to the belief of many among our foreign born citizens, Secretary of Labor, James J. Davis has been one of those who has consistently and persistently combatted the powerful interests which seek to put up an absolute bar against all immigration. Throughout this agitation over the immigrant, Secretary Davis has shown himself the friend of the man of foreign birth who comes to this country with the earnest desire to better himself and of contributing something to the advancement of his adopted country. He is entitled to the thanks and the support of every American of foreign birth or of foreign extraction in his efforts to place our immigration laws upon a basis of justice, fairness and patriotism. - YOUNGSTOWNSKE SLOVENSKE NOVINY, Youngstown, Ohio. (Republican)

Thirty-three years have elapsed since the census of 1890. Many things have changed since. The former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, comprising over 52 million of inhabitants, with a number of 4 million of immigrants in this country between 1861 and 1919, has ceased to exist, and in its place there are four new states, each of which has a certain number of immigrants in this country and these immigrants are now to be classed according to the census of thirty-three years ago...We do not know whether it is today detrimental to the Czechs and Slovaks that they fought on the side of the Allies and the United States against Prussianism and the world domination of the Hohenzollerns. We do not know whether it is detrimental to them that they belong to the oldest ethnic unit in Europe; that they are white, Aryan strain. We do not know whether the wisdom which... tries to keep out people of such prominently good white stock as the Slovaks, will prevail. But we wish to stress that the Slovaks who did their share, and a good deal more, during the war are worthy of consideration, even if the "Nordic pride" of an ambitious cabinet member has to yield to common sense. -- NARODNE NOVINY (Slovak) Pittsburgh, Pa. (Independent)

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JEWISH

The fight is on. We ask: Are American Jews going to be so supine as to submit to these attacks on their people without the sharpest protest and action? This is not a question of the Jewish vote; there is no such thing. But we must be politically active to protect Jews from the unfair, malicious, lying reports that are being spread broadcast by the foes of Jews, which include even some Jews themselves. The fight is on. What are Jews going to do about it. Play ostrich? -- JEWISH DAILY NEWS, New York City (Democratic)

Johnson's Bill, which is aimed clearly and mercilessly at the Slav, the Latin and the Jew, but which attempted to slip by under the harmless guise of a change in the date of the census, has attracted the attention it merited. And Republicans, who backed the bill, are uneasy. Unfortunately for their calculations, the Jew, the Pole, the Italian saw through the game quickly enough... Or perhaps the friends of the Johnson Bill thought the insulted nationalities would not have the courage to protest, would be only too glad that they got in, and would let it go at that. Both calculations were foolish. The insulted nationalities, understood - and they protested in a fashion which put the fear of the electorate in the heart of the party. It is a great pity that the threat of the party vote should have to be brought to the rescue of a principle which has nothing to do with party - the first principle of Americanism. But if the threat has to be made, let it be made clearly and unequivocally. -- THE DAY, New York City (Independent)

The new project makes an attempt to divide the coming immigrant into two different classes: the desirable and the undesirable immigrants. Those who come from England, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Germany, are welcomed guests; those, however, who were born in the Eastern and Southern part of Europe, are told to remain at home. We heard the echo of this spirit when 800 English immigrants were allowed to enter this country above the quota, some thousands of Russian and Jewish immigrants being, however, deported back to Europe at the same time. We must all combat the principle. There ought not to be good and bad nations, good and bad peoples. They must all be equal before the law. The Jewish population in America is entitled and able to make it clear that the Jews ought not to be made the victims of exceptional discrimination. - THE FORWARD, New York City (Socialist)

We are sure that all Jewish Republicans are asking President Coolidge to revise his standpoint in this question of immigration. We hope that he will not ignore such a request coming from a large part of his own party. -- JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL, New York City (Republican)

JUGOSLAV

If we were good enough for the American Army and industry during the war, if our money was good enough to buy Liberty Bonds with, and we were told that America is a just mother to all the races alike, that helped her in her emergency, then we must recall this to those who seek now to impose a status of undesirable inferiority upon certain racial groups which in another emergency might (however deplorably) respond differently to the old appeal. -- SVIJET (Croatian), New York City. (Independent)

The World War has considerably changed the mental state of Europe and the masses over there have been infused with new ideas of social justice. So the paradoxical situation has arisen that America is afraid of immigrants, thinking that they may try to enforce their doctrines here. This is a very short-sighted and unwarranted view. Social revolutions are not the result of agitators and propaganda, but of economic conditions. Economic conditions in America are, in comparison with the outside world, still so favorable that the fear of a revolution on the part of the immigrants is absurd and comical. These immigrants are human beings and as such are subject to the same reactions as effect other people. The present immigration bill is sufficiently unjust. The adoption, however, of such a law as the

Americanization "specialists" propose would be much worse, and an absolute antithesis to the principles of democracy and humanitarianism, which made America what she is. -- ENAKOPRAVNOST (Slovene), Cleveland, Ohio. (Independent)

The doors to the United States are being closed by degrees... The cold Anglo-Saxon race shows this egotism. Europeans, who have cultivated this country did not suppose, even in their dreams, that their descendants would be barred by law; that admission would be denied them to this soil which they sought and dedicated with their sweat and blood. -- HRVATSKI LIST (Croatian), New York City (Independent)

LITHUANIAN

The attitude of America towards immigration is partially just. Not all aliens know how to appreciate and honor America. But do all alien colonies create discordant notes in American harmony? Are all foreign language newspapers unworthy of the honor of the name American? Is America herself not to blame for permitting many alien enemies of America to remain here and exploit America for their own selfish purposes? Because of some is it just and democratic to punish all by an unfair law? It is unfair to punish ten for the crime of one. However, the time will come when America will plead for European immigration. Perhaps the plea will bear fruit. There is a shortage of manual labor now and the shortage will continue to develop. The aliens' time will come. -- VIENYBE, Brooklyn, N. Y. (Independent)

If many of us have paid little attention to this matter, heretofore, we must give it serious consideration now. Mr. Davis, the Secretary of Labor, is anxious to have the new bill passed. His friends, Mr. Gompers, The American Federation of Labor, The American Legion and the Ku Klux Klan, are also behind it. They have joined hands and are working, while the unions and the union members are resting in innocuous desuetude. -- LAISVE, Brooklyn, N.Y. (Ind.)

In the 1890 census, the Lithuanians were not listed as separate nationals by the United States. Lithuanians were recorded as Russians or Poles. No actual or full record regarding the number of Lithuanians who were here in 1890 is available. Certainly America's doors will be closed to them, yet there are a million here now and there were many here in 1890. Under the new law a hundred or so will be admitted while we are advised that 11,000 applications for visas were filed by Lithuanians with the American Consulate in Kovno. Certainly Lithuanians will suffer because of this unfortunate proposal. -- DRAUGAS, Chicago, Ill. (Republican)

RUSSIAN

The proposed further restriction of immigration is a bone that the Republican administration is throwing to the Ku Klux Klan and to the American Legion. They cannot give the bonus. But something must be done. As the physicians in the Middle Ages used to say: If you cannot diagnose the sickness, write out a prescription that has a neutral action. Restriction of immigration is such a remedy. It is to be hoped at least that the restrictionists will favor relatives of those who are here already. Even from the point of view of a 100 per cent Americanism, it would not be wise to close the doors to relatives of those who were the builders of this country. -- RUSSKY GOLOS, New York City (Independent)

There are two Americas. One is striving to further limit immigration and to curtail the rights of aliens. That America contains many worshippers of the Idol Gold, satellites of oppressors of the poor, enemies of organized labor. They make America seem gloomy, joyless. In the hearts and minds of those who do not know this country they create dissatisfaction, almost aversion.

There is also another America, the America of the great humanitarian, Abraham Lincoln, the America of Jefferson, Longfellow, Whitman, Emerson, Mark Twain, and Jack London. This is a freedom loving, a human, a hospitable America. This America has won the admiration of the world by its friendliness and tolerance of all those who believe and think differently. This America is also a charitable America. It does not divide men into "our own" and "strangers". It extends a friendly hand to all the oppressed and downtrodden... We aliens very often come face to face with the gloomy sides of American life. We live mostly in overcrowded industrial centres, where the struggle for existence is acute, where the air is filled with smoke and dust. But we must not forget that the other America, the free, the hospitable America that refuses to tolerate oppression, is the America both of the progressive native and of the "strangers" who have found their homes here. -- RUSSKY VIESTNIK, Chicago, Ill. (Independent)

POLISH

Representatives of foreign language organizations, as well as the foreign language press have expressed their protest. A small group of American newspapers and American organizations have also expressed their disagreement with such a restriction policy because they consider it not in accordance with American principles. Not long ago the Italian Government in an official note to the Department of State protested against the proposed law. Other governments will undoubtedly follow the Italian. However, it is very doubtful whether all these efforts, in addition to those of the representatives of the immigrants right here in this country, will have any effect. It is most likely if one can judge by indications, that the Johnson Bill will attain a majority vote, because of the views held on the subject by a majority of the individual members of Congress. TELEGRAM CODZIENNY, New York City (Independent)

In 1890 immigration from Poland was comparatively small. Besides many Poles coming into Ellis Island were listed as Russians, Germans and Austrians because of the fact they were subjects of these countries... The author of the bill, as well as those Congressmen whom he represents, have made the statement that it is their desire to have larger numbers of immigrants coming to America from countries possessing a "high culture". Poland has been listed by them with countries possessing a "low culture"... Such a classification is also harmful to the United States, for it represents an official classification of nations into "better" and "worse" categories. This may have very fatal and far-reaching results as concerns the relations between the various races living in this country which up to the present time were quite harmonious... The Johnson Bill should be a call to mobilization for all the citizenship clubs of which Americans of Polish descent are members, as well as to the forces of Polish immigration in America in general. -- NOWY SWIAT, New York City. (Independent)

HUNGARIAN

As a matter of fact the Republican Administration has plenty of serious trouble with other things, and would not wish to excite the great number of foreign born citizens just before the election by attempting with Draconian severeness to solve the immigration problem. The leaders are afraid, but the alien-haters who are behind Johnson and Davis, will not give up, even though their efforts bring embarrassment for the administration and the Republican Party. Conferences are going on just now in Washington, among Coolidge, Johnson, Davis and Hughes, but we cannot undertake to prophesy as to the outcome. It is true, however, that the leaders are inclined to compromise, would like to settle the matter so that from the foreign born voters no trouble will come to the Republican Party before the Presidential election. -- UJ ELORE, New York City (Workers Party)

The Johnson Bill, embodying the 2 per cent quota on the basis of 1890... will sow the seeds of tremendous political troubles, for no matter how hard the Johnsons try to avoid the issue, they are enacting racial and religious discrimination into law, and by this action they are in conflict with the American Constitution. The Courts, themselves, ought to nullify this attempt. The Johnsons openly declare that the Middle and Southern European races are an inferior stock. In this way they would place an insulting brand upon millions, who, in accordance with the spirit of Lincoln, are reluctant to deny the countries of their birth. But the Johnson bill also means religious discrimination, in view of the fact that the Nordic races are mostly Protestants. The Johnsons, therefore, belong with the Ku Klux Klan when they make laws against the Catholics and Jews. -- AMERIKAI MAGYAR NEPSZAVA, New York City. (Republican)

Erratum

See Page 5. Party politics of Lithuanian
LATSVI is Workers' Party, not "Independent"

INTERPRETER RELEASES

"To interpret the Immigrant to America and
America to the Immigrant"

Editorial Digest of the Foreign Language Press in America

(The following digest is issued by the Foreign Language Information Service as part of its work of interpreting the immigrant to America and America to the immigrant. The Service is in daily touch with the press of sixteen foreign language groups in the United States - Czech, Danish, Finnish, German, Hungarian, Italian, Jewish, Jugoslav (Serbo-Croatian and Slovene), Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Swedish and Ukrainian. It aims to make the digest representative of current editorial comment in this press. It is an information service solely, and assumes no responsibility for the opinions expressed.)

Editorial Digest Vol. II No. 4

March 15, 1924.

OIL AND POLITICS BADLY MIXED

Foreign Language Press of America Demands Punishment of
Guilty but Thinks Teapot Dome Scandal Is Augmented
for Campaign Purposes.

"Panama" and "panamist" are words frequently used by editors of the foreign language press in America to describe the Teapot Dome oil scandal and those involved in it. By this means they compare the revelations at Washington with the great swindle associated with early French efforts to build a canal at Panama.

The amount of space, both news and editorial, which the "immigrant press" gives to this domestic topic is proportionately as great as that given by English language contemporaries. And there is a striking similarity, on the whole, between the editorial viewpoint and conclusions found among these new Americans and the temper displayed by our national press as a whole.

A philosophical note runs through much of the comment. The independent Polish NOWY SWIAT, New York, reminds us that "oil has played an outstanding role in world affairs" ever since the great war, and reviewing its diplomatic history in Silesia, Germany, Asia Minor, Mesopotamia and the Caucasus it finds that now "in America it is the cause of an unprecedented domestic scandal." The Republican Lithuanian DRAUGAS, Chicago, reverts pessimistically to de Tocqueville's early visit to young America and to the book in which he said this country "would grow rapidly, become powerful, famous and rich and that rival parties would strive to outdo each other, culminating in the decline of political ideals and corruption in public life." But that paper's contemporary, the independent TEVYNE, of Chicago, reminds us that "there are grafters in all

parts of the world, not even our native Lithuania being free from them." The editor adds, however, that "this scandal is more dangerous than all the communist propaganda... Party interests should be forgotten and the guilty prosecuted, for that is the only course left to redeem government authority in the eyes of the public."

Political Exaggeration Charged

Many papers are of the opinion that if this were not an election year the scandal would not have developed. The independent Russian NOVOCYE RUSSKOYE SLOVO, New York, hopes that "the sensational disclosures will be kept free from partisanship", but recognizes that "pre-election considerations gave energy to the effort of the Democrats to expose the whole thing." According to the Democratic Czech HLAS, of St. Louis, "Dirty political linen always goes into the wash just before election, but this year there is by far too much of it." And, "it seems to us that a great part of this scandal is electoral, and the duty of impartiality demands that we all reserve judgment until the truth is established," the independent Italian CORRIERE D'AMERICA, New York, declares. This viewpoint is amplified by the Republican Hungarian organ, AMERIKAI MAGYAR NEPSZAVA, of New York, which says:

"This is not the first scandal to be exposed, and not even the biggest. We do not wish to disturb the sleeping past, but it seems only yesterday that the Alien Property Custodian auctioned off several hundred million dollars worth of dye patents to the Chemical Foundation, of which - by some queer accident -- he later became the head. This was a somewhat bigger scandal than Teapot Dome, yet very little fuss was made over it. There is a psychological explanation of this. Election time is drawing near and it is customary to dig up some Panama or political scandal to discredit the existing administration. The bigger the scandal the better it is. After the election is over the whole affair will sink into oblivion."

"Many of the accusations are strongly exaggerated and in the end may prove groundless," the Republican Jewish MORNING JOURNAL, New York believes, while another Republican organ, the Italian NUOVO VENUTO, Chicago, argues that mistakes which are short of criminal may have been made by men like former Secretary of the Navy Denby, and thinks "our national legislators should remain cool headed and watch their steps." While calling for a thorough investigation that will satisfy all the people and commanding President Coolidge for his promise that there will be no shielding of the guilty, the Republican Finnish paper, LANNEN SUOMETAR, Astoria, Ore., remembers that "these revelations are often exaggerated."

"Most Scandalous Imaginable"

Nevertheless, while "in the beginning many thought that the investigation was a political onslaught by the Democrats against the Republicans," most editors share the view of the independent Jugoslav HRVATSKI GLASNIK, Chicago, "that it is now clear to everyone that this is the most scandalous case of graft imaginable." According to the Republican Swedish AMERIKANAREN, Chicago:

"It is indeed a sad fact and a warning sign of the times that there are persons who strive to add millions of dollars to their fortunes without scruple as to how they are obtained... We are sufficiently old fashioned - or what should we call it? - to consider it a greater crime to rob the nation than to steal from an individual. The man who breaks his oath and helps himself to the public treasure is a double criminal, and ought legally to be classed as such."

"The country has never known such underhand bartering of the national wealth," agrees another Republican paper, the Jugoslav GLAS SVOBODE, of Chicago, which thinks "it is time to turn a searchlight upon the highest places in Washington and make a clean sweep with a big broom." An organ of the Workers' Party, the Hungarian UJ ELORE, New York, proclaims that "the oil Panama has exploded and its stench is threatening to choke both the old capitalist parties." Another paper of the same party, the Lithuanian LAISVE, says: "It is a scene from hell... Even the simplest person can see that on the guilty bench sit not individual grafters but the entire governmental system..." And a third organ of the Workers' Party, UKRAINIAN DAILY NEWS, New York, soliloquizes: "Republicans and Democrats - they all exhale the same disagreeable odor."

Scorn For False Patriots

According to an independent Italian paper, L'ORA, of Newark, "as long as we have men in the Senate like LaFollette and Walsh we can be sure the committee of inquiry will fulfill its duty" and not spare "all these Puritans who talk so much about their hundred percent Americanism and know how to profit personally from their patriotism." There is less optimism in the words of the Socialist Italian ALBA NUOVA, New York, which says of the "law-breakers of Teapot Dome" that "they are immune and can safely continue to sing the praises of their Puritan Americanism and to uphold the laws which hold the workers in slavery." A Republican organ, the German WESTLICHE POST, St. Louis, says "it has come to

light that the money from the oil leases was most readily accepted by the crowd of hundred percent patriots", and considers this "a source of satisfaction to those who during the war had to suffer much at the hands of this gang." Another German paper, the independent OMAHA TRIBUNE, thinks "the oil scandal is merely a continuation of the many scandals during the glorious administration of Woodrow Wilson," saying "at that time there was a whole bevy of scandals."

Current revelations "prove once more that corruption exists in all spheres... Gold glitters and blinds men's visions and makes them forget all scruples," thinks IL RISVEGLIO, independent Italian paper of Denver. "The entire nation should rise up and demand a thorough investigation," says the independent Czechoslovak AMERICAN, Cleveland, but it adds that "the people are satisfied with just reading the exposures, making some unflattering comment - and the circus goes on as before." In the same vein: "No one will be found guilty," thinks the independent Lithuanian DIRVA, Cleveland; "the people most involved will prove that they did not take bribes, but merely loans, and the matter will end."

In Defence of the President

The Republican Italian paper VOCE DEL POPOLO, Cleveland, commends President Coolidge's promise "to deal thoroughly and summarily with every form of wrongdoing", and then asks; "But where is the man who is willing to start the job?" "Attorney General Daugherty may not be guilty of any crimes," but he can serve President Coolidge best by resigning at once, in the opinion of the Democratic Jewish paper THE DAY, New York.

"Mr. Coolidge is not responsible for Fall but he is responsible for Attorney General Daugherty, whom he has kept in his cabinet and who systematically closed both eyes to the oil transactions," thinks the independent Czechoslovak SVET, of Cleveland. In treating of the movement in Congress to compel the resignation of different cabinet members, several of the newspapers point out to their immigrant readers the special separation of legislative from executive powers in America and commend President Coolidge for defending the freedom of his office. "Thank heaven," exclaims

the Lithuanian Socialist paper, DAUJIENOS, Chicago, "the power of the American President is greater than the power of many kings," but it thinks an outcome of the present dispute may "show the people that the executive department should be controlled by the people's representatives." The independent Russian paper, RUSSKY GOLOS, New York, explains:

"According to the letter of the Constitution, the Senate has no right to recommend to the President changes in his cabinet. Impeachment is the way to remove an offending minister. But according to the spirit of the Constitution, the United States are governed by the people. And Congress is supposed to voice the will of the people. Which will win, the letter or the spirit of the law?"

Political Consequences Foreseen

"The trouble with this scandal," says the Republican Italian PROGRESSO, New York, "is that like all scandals it rolls along and grows bigger, then ends by bounding back upon those who started it... Republicans and Democrats are equally implicated and have both done their share to accelerate a revision of domestic politics." The independent Russian RUSSKY GOLOS, New York, finds that "oil concessions in the far West have corrupted the whole East", and referring to the opening for "an anti-oil third party", asks, "what names hitherto mentioned as presidential candidates have remained intact after these disclosures?" What had previously seemed "an almost assured victory for the Republican party has been shaken", the independent DZIENNIK POLSKI, Detroit, believes; and "caution might make it advisable to eliminate Coolidge as a possible candidate," in the judgment of the Italian CORRIERE D' AMERICA, New York.

"Mr. Fall's political career has come to an abrupt stop, and to all appearances Mr. Denby has consumed all his political gasoline," the independent Ukrainian SVOBODA, Jersey City, concedes, but when it turns to "the foremost Democratic candidate for President the same paper says:

"He has been paving his way carefully and laboriously. He had advertised himself as a friend and champion of the farmer. Pictures of Mr. McAdoo in cowboy trousers, wild and wooly, were distributed throughout agricultural America. Now, on account of some wretched \$100,000, the whole campaign is lost."

The fact that Mr. McAdoo received large fees "from one of the oil kings, Mr. Donelly, does not mean anything, since he is a lawyer and accustomed to receiving large retainers," the independent Hungarian MAGYAR HIRADO, Pittsburgh, argues, but it concludes that in political terms "this is sufficient to end McAdoo's presidential candidacy once and for all." A directly opposite conclusion is drawn by the independent German ABENDPOST, Chicago, which said after the special conference of McAdoo supporters called at Chicago: "McAdoo feels himself innocent of any guilt in the oil scandal... He is indeed the man to lead the progressive Democrats and liberals and to win the Democratic nomination."

"Opening Made For a New Party"

The hope, the fear or the indefinite promise is held out by many editors that some new political organization will enter the field this year and profit from the embarrassment which afflicts the two major parties. Some plead for minor parties already existing, while others call for a new coalition of all liberal factions. A typical expression comes from the German independent Democratic TAGLICHER, of Buffalo, which says:

"Under the circumstances the prospects of the two leading parties have diminished, while the way has been smoothed out for a third, independent party. The longer the investigations of the oil scandal continue and the more evil comes to light, the more the Republican and Democratic parties lose in prestige and in future prospects, while the prospects of the independent movement (independent of secret government) are rising. Although it is some time before the opening of the electoral campaign, under the circumstances it would seem that the candidacy of LaFollette as leader of the independent party looks very promising."

"In all centers of political thought the urgent necessity of a third party is being discussed," the Republican Italian PROGRESSO, New York, states. Speaking in the voice of radical labor, the Czechoslovak Workers' Party paper, SPRAVEDLNOST, Chicago finds that "there is only one answer to the whole Teapot Dome affair, which represents capitalism, and that is the organization of a Farmer-Labor Party and a fight for the control of government by the laborers and farmers... which will lead to the purification of conditions created by the corrupt major parties." The Jugoslav Socialist paper, PROSVETA, Chicago, thinks "the result of the coming elections will determine how vigorously the elimination of corruption from public life is to be undertaken." But no

important political reactions are expected by the Republican Jewish MORNING JOURNAL, New York, which says "it would be different in a European country...where such revelations would swing millions of votes to the Socialists. In the United States the Socialist Party is too weak to profit by the situation," it concludes.

Good Results Hoped For

"These scandals are not devoid of usefulness," the independent Russian RUSSKY VIESTNIK, Chicago, tells us. "They open up the sores and shortcomings of the social mechanism. The people are unusually alert, becoming more interested in and appreciative of the necessity to declare war against intrigue, dishonesty and bribery. Bribers and bribe takers, dishonest officeholders, are after all bringing us nearer the era of justice by arousing the people to a realization of their responsibilities."

Discussing "former Cabinet members to whom King Doheny paid such huge amounts in salaries," the Republican German MILWAUKEE HEROLD thinks "the American people must look upon it as a stroke of good luck, however disgusting and repelling the whole affair is, that the mask has been torn from the faces of the guilty." And a Democratic German paper, AMERIKA, of St. Louis, is confident that "in future every politician who is tempted to hand over the public property to private interests will hesitate long before doing so."

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INTERPRETER RELEASES

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Editorial Digest Vol.II No. 5

April 23, 1924.

THROUGH THE IMMIGRANT'S EYES

Some Views of Current Events As They Appear to The Editor Who Writes for The Foreign Born Reader

An average day's output from the pens of foreign language editors in America is shown by the following selections from representative newspapers. Although many different themes are discussed here, the commonest subject of comment is the many-phased one of new legislation designed to govern the numbers and kinds of aliens who shall in future be admitted to the United States.

SPRING IN THE BRONX

Spring fashions have reached the Bronx. The Bronx has its own bobbed haired bandit. If the fashion spreads every neighborhood and street may come to have its own cute little hold-up girlie.. Humanity yearns for change and excitement in the springtime, and as the pace of modern life increases the craving is for something still more thrilling for the nerves... What excitement compares with the situation in which strong men stand shivering and scared to death with their hands raised, confronted by a little woman with a revolver pointed at them? What so thrilling as for the little dear to know that she is pursued by hundreds of sturdy policemen, while she hides and laughs!

A more potent reason may account for this new female fashion. There are still some men so reactionary that they deny the complete equality of men and women. By their successful operations, the women bandits settle this argument very convincingly, for if she be successful in the profession of banditry in what calling can a woman not make good. - AMERIKAI MAGYAR NEPSZAVA, New York City (Hungarian Republican)

ROOSEVELT THE CONSERVATIONIST

One of the greatest achievements of the late President Roosevelt was that he recognized at an early date the importance of conserving our oil lands for naval purposes, and took the first necessary steps to this end... The acquisition of the oil lands which now occupy the foreground in public discussions, the Teapot Dome and Elk Hills regions, was due to the initiative of Mr. Roosevelt, who thereby established the principle of public conservation of our natural

resources. Through the leasing out of these oil reserves to private corporations for reckless exploitation this principle, gained through so much effort, was dropped. This is the most important point in the oil scandal... but it is a point which the public overlooks, because it does not look under the surface but concerns itself only with personalities, not with principles. If this scandal should result in awakening the public conscience so that in future the people will give more attention to their own interests, which is only possible if they refuse to be lead blindly by party politics, then even this dark chapter in our history will result in some good. - NEW YORKER STAATSZEITUNG (German Independent)

FARMER'S DOLLAR DECLINES

Our wheat farmers were promised better times in 1924, and so spent their cash last year for immediate necessities. But the demand for grain has declined, and the prices likewise. The farmer has many needs but he must put them off until his buying power improves. The cotton farmer, also, is embarrassed. Several years of poor crops and high prices for commodities have made him go heavily into debt... Now he can get no more money unless he mortgages his farm.

In short, it is the farmer's inability to buy what he needs that is today causing alarm in financial circles. The consequences of sin are coming back thick and fast. The cities have been growing at the expense of the country, and the "welfare" of the city worker was attained at the expense of the farmer. Now the price of eggs will not pay for feed, the price of butter will not pay for the work, and as for the price of cattle, it is useless even to mention it. Sins committed will now fall back upon their source, but it is only the laboring class that will rue the act. - THE TEXAN, Houston, Texas (Czech Independent)

"THE COVERED WAGON"

In the crowd of plainsmen and woodsmen travelling toward the unknown, you see in "The Covered Wagon" bristling beards and shaggy manes, unkempt men, rough garb and manners, rugged faces and peasant wielders of the ax and the hoe, men unacquainted with social conventionalities. Fortune hunting was their adventure, and they created treasures wherever they went by making grain or gold gush forth under the blows of their heavy implements. It takes that kind of folks to widen the frontiers of civilization and to wrest from nature the wealth on which the world lives. In the motion picture we see the patriarchal crowd, dirty and hirsute, reach their goal and settle down. And we see them undergo a wondrous transformation. Having found the wealth they were seeking, they gave up fortune hunting. Thenceforth their beards are shaved off, their hair is combed and they wear good clothes. The enriched pioneers are changed into typical Americans.

Now let us turn about; today we do not see many of those Americans, for the evolution is accomplished and the folks of "The Covered Wagon" have nothing in common with the modern Americans who are their descendants. But the folks of "The Covered Wagon" days have much in common with the folks who come through Ellis Island. You cannot look at the picture of the early settlers without thinking about the immigrants who are the pioneers of today. Should the men who are glorified on the screen appear before the Commissioner of Immigration with their beards, their rags and their crude manners he would be shocked, and he would sound the alarm against their admission on the ground that they might exert a degrading influence on American life. - IL CORRIERE D'AMERICA, New York City (Italian Independent)

SECURITY THROUGH NATIONAL DEBTS

Money plays an important role in world politics - more important than many of us realize... Here is a nice suggestion for small nations: It is that they should seek to obtain huge foreign loans solely in order to make themselves unassailable. Great powers that lend money to small nations will see to it that their investments are secure against the attacks of other powers and be ready to assist their debtor country in case of danger from outside. To pay the interest on such loans would perhaps be cheaper than the sinking of big sums in the ordinary means of national defence, and the diplomatic pressure exerted in their behalf would mean more in national security than would be got through armaments, which, obtained at the cost of sacrifices however great would not bring absolute security against a powerful enemy. - AMERIKAN SUOMETAR, Hancock, Mich. (Finnish Republican)

IMMIGRATION, OLD AND NEW

A great many arguments are advanced in favor of continued restriction, and even in favor of complete exclusion of all who wish to come to our shores... This viewpoint is not confined to Americans of old lineage; among those most eager to close the door we often find some comparatively recent arrivals, their attitude being something like this: "Now that I am in, close the door!...."

We make bold to assert that if a restrictive quota had been put into operation before the arrival in the Great Middle West and Northwest of the millions of Scandinavians, these regions of our country would be sadly deficient in those very respects in which they now excel... It is true that the Scandinavians, being the purest Nordics, are more readily assimilable with the original Colonial stock than the people of Southern and Eastern Europe, which of late years have constituted the larger part of our immigrants. But there is no reason to assume that these races cannot be assimilated. Sufficient time has not been allowed to prove that. There are those who, when the Scandinavians first began to arrive in this country in large numbers some sixty years ago, advanced the very same arguments against their admittance to the United States which now are brought forward against these later arrivals. - TIDENDE, Minneapolis, Minn. (Norwegian Republican)

DISPLEASED WITH CONGRESS

Members of Congress have paid no attention to the President's clear and straightforward declaration that the people are paying too much in income taxes. He urged that the tax to be paid this year should be reduced 25 per cent, but Congress has calmly put that question aside, saying "it would be impossible to deal with that issue in a hurry." Of course, it is impossible when Congress lacks the will to do it.

At this session Congress has done absolutely nothing of consequence, and the Administration could without any difficulty have carried on without a Congress. Leaving out of consideration anything which the oil scandal and the other investigations have disclosed or threaten to disclose, the fact is that Congress has itself contributed to distrust and unrest, and it could surprise nobody... if the coming elections should bring into our legislative bodies a large number of new men who would take a more serious view of duties entrusted to them by the voters. - DANISH PIONEER, Omaha, Nebr. (Independent)

STRONG FOR THE JOHNSON BILL

It (the Johnson Immigration Bill) will admit more of the people who are easier assimilated, whose system of government is more or less like our own, and it will bar out people whose standards of living are lower than ours, who are to a large percentage illiterate and ignorant, whose ideas of government are entirely different from ours, and who cannot be assimilated without lowering our standards and injuring our democratic institutions.

The bill is a Western measure and it is opposed by the East. It is an American measure for the protection of good Americanism, and it is opposed by the East because the East has already lost its Americanism by the influx of these undesirable people from Europe. .. It is an American measure and its opponents are the enemies of our country. - CALIFORNIA VOKEBLAD, Los Angeles, Calif. (Swedish Independent)

CHILD LABOR INCREASING

Since the time, in 1912, when the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional the law which forbade child labor, the number of children at work in factories and on farms has increased amazingly.

In eleven cities the number of working children has increased 57 per cent, in fourteen other cities 24 per cent, in five 100 per cent, and in some it has increased 800 per cent. In Waterbury, Conn., in 1923 the number of working papers issued to children was eight times greater than in 1922. In Manchester, N.H., there are at present more than five times as many children working as last year.

Working on the farms tends to deform very young children since they must maintain a stooping position all day. Nevertheless, in two counties in the State of Colorado alone, almost 1400 children between the ages of 6 and 16 are working on farms, and 715 children below the age of 6!

In the coal mines of Pennsylvania boys aged 13 and 14 years labor every workday in the week. In Louisiana, in the oyster and crab canning factories, the conditions are still worse. There, children between the ages of 8 and 12 work from six o'clock in the morning until ten at night, or about 16 hours daily.

In North Carolina the cotton mills employ 12-year old boys, while girls and boys 14 years of age are employed for 11 hours a day. In the factories of Georgia 12-year old children work 60 hours a week, and the law allows children above 14 years to work on all-night shifts.

The above facts are taken from the report of the Federal Department of Labor... There is at present a bill before Congress, offered by Senator McCormick, to overcome defects found in the other law by the Supreme Court. Every citizen ought to demand its speedy enactment. - KURYER POLSKI, Milwaukee, Wisc. (Polish Independent)

AMERICA AND THE CHILD

Child labor is an open sore in the United States. This is probably the only democratic country where that question is so ignored. Although nearly every individual State provides compulsory education for children up to 14 or 16 years of age, these laws are seldom enforced. There are factories filled with children from 12 to 14 years old...

The United States is full of people busily engaged doing things which are of no special importance, and some are trying frantically to restrict the liberty of the inhabitants. They would serve the nation much better if they should show some interest and expend some energy in behalf of the minor children who are being exploited for profit. However, the fanatics are only fanatic because they are paid to be so. They would not work for the abolition of child labor because there is nothing for themselves to be got from it. - DRAUGAS, Chicago, Ill. (Lithuanian Republican)

HEALTH AMONG THE FOREIGN BORN

One of the favorite arguments of the immigration restrictionists is that the foreign born, notably the Jewish immigrants and those hailing from Eastern Europe, are disease-stricken and consequently a menace to America. It is interesting, therefore, to quote from the Bulletin of the New York Tuberculosis Association, the true facts. From an article entitled "Tuberculosis Among Different Nationalities in New York," we quote the following:

"During the period mentioned (1918 to 1921, inclusive), the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis per 100,000 in New York City averaged 122. Among the native born or of those born in the United States, it was only 108; but among the Finns and the Irish it was three times as high, being respectively 342 and 306 per 100,000. On the other hand, a tuberculosis death rate below the city's average occurred among people born in Russia and Roumania - who are practically all Jewish and among whom the death rate was only 86 and 92 respectively." ... TAGEBLATT, New York City (Jewish Democratic)

OIL AND AMERICANIZATION

Opponents of immigration.... say that we ought to get Americanized, that we do not respect American institutions and are therefore a dangerous element.... Well, the immigrant ought to learn quickly these days. Members of the President's Cabinet, mainstays of the Republican and Democratic parties, mayors, governors, oil kings and so on, are undoubtedly patriotic people. Immigrants, emulate them! Get yourselves elected or nominated to high official positions and wrap the stars and stripes about you; accentuate with every fifth word your loyalty to American institutions and to the Constitution, and while so doing grab thousands, hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars. If that way you will become truly distinguished, the newspapers will write about you on the front pages and chambers of commerce will give banquets in your honor. - PROLETAREC, Chicago, Ill. (Jugoslav Socialist)

BREAKING A RECORD

Five thousand new Americans "made" in one day. Such is the recent record established by the Naturalization Bureau in New York. During every minute of the session the Court added 15 new citizens.

Only one candidate was sent home. He thought that the Mayor of New York, Mr. Hylan, was President of the United States. He will get another hearing in two months. At any rate, 5,000 Americans were "born" in one day. Even Mr. Henry Ford might envy such a record. But this mass naturalization deserves special mention in view of the fact that the Ku Klux Klan, of all shades and colorings, declare in their agitation against immigration that the immigrants do not wish to become citizens of this country... This naturalization record will serve as the best answer to the Ku Klux Klanists. - RUSSKY GOLOS, New York City (Russian Independent)

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Editorial Digest Vol.II No. 6

May 7, 1924.

MAKES PEACE MORE DIFFICULT

Method Employed by Congress in Japanese Exclusion Strikes
Foreign Language Papers As A Blow at Amity
between Nations.

The hope of peace between nations and plans for disarmament have suffered a hard blow, many editors of the foreign language press in America think, as a result of the action of the American Senate and House of Representatives on the subject of Japanese immigration. Some of those who write for immigrant Americans defend as wholly proper an abrupt cancellation of the "Gentlemen's Agreement" and total abolition of the Japanese quota. Others discuss it philosophically as an incident in what they view as an irrepressible conflict of interests between the two countries. But none can find in the episode any support for hopes and theories of international harmony.

After quoting President Coolidge's recent statement that "wars will cease when nations will that wars shall cease; peace will reign when they will that it shall reign," the independent Jewish DAY, of New York, asks:

How does this question of 'will' compare with the recent manifestation of 'patriotism' in the Senate, on the occasion of the deliberate misrepresentation of the Japanese ambassador's note? How much of the will-to-peace was there in that fierce and primitive gesture, worthy of the best traditions only of a haughty barbarian race, which interprets honor only in terms of war and pride in terms of might? Of what avail the reduction of armaments, when a trifling incident of this kind can set the representatives of the people aflame?

三五

It is held by the Republican Hungarian organ, AMERIKAI MAGYAR NEPSZAVA, of New York, that the Japanese ambassador's protest against total exclusion was tactlessly drafted, but that the Senate retorted by seeking to punish Japan "as one punishes a child, who is laid across its father's knees and spanked. The child shows its resentment by kicking its heels in the empty air. Japan, however, is not a child and her feet are not kicking the empty air. The first consequence is strained diplomatic relations, while of further development we can only speculate." The Republican Italian LA FOLLIA, New York argues that we "have a legal if not a moral right" to use the method of Congress in dealing with Japan, but it prefers that we "be at least consistent with our professions of peace. At the Washington Conference," it adds, "we strove for peace in the Pacific. The Japanese, having faith in us, gave up their treaty with England. Now we go back on that Conference, or the spirit of it... No American wants war with Japan or with any other nation, but strangely enough many Americans endorse steps which do not and cannot make for peace."

"A Worthless Insult"

Another Italian paper, the independent CORRIERE D'AMERICA, New York, summarizes a widespread sentiment when it says:

It is surprising that without hesitation the Senate should sacrifice fifteen years of patient work of pacification, the moral results of the Washington Treaty, the Four-Power Alliance in the Pacific, for a worthless insult to Japan. An impulse of this sort would be understandable in a mob, but it is disquieting in an authoritative assembly which controls the political intercourse of America with the world at large. It would be serious if the Japanese should act on the same impulse. Fortunately, they are still employing the old diplomacy, so cool and calculating.

Referring to a statement made elsewhere that the Senate action constituted "a sound blow" to Japan, the independent Russian NOVOYE RUSSKOYE SLOVO, New York, adds: "It is really the sound of a door banged shut. It is a great blow to Japanese pride." And, "where are the maniacs in Congress leading America?" asks an organ of the Workers' Party, the Lithuanian LAISVE, of Brooklyn, which thinks "we can imagine to what heights Japan's indignation would have risen if it were not for the recent earthquake." The Senate vote "has aroused great bitterness in the Mikado's realm, which

augurs nothing good for the future," says the Czech Socialist organ, ZAJMY LIDU, Chicago. A conservative Russian voice in Philadelphia, that of the non-political PRAVDA, remarks that "the action of Congress has proved that the quiet waters of the Pacific are surcharged with a military atmosphere. "Wars between nations are prepared easily and without attracting much attention," it continues. "The inflammable material is collected and may burst into flames even against the wishes of the recognized leaders. In the present conflict it is the fatality, the inevitability of events leading up to a catastrophe, that arrests one's attention." The same paper refers also to the earthquake which it believes makes Japan unprepared for an early war, "but in the face of this weakness the Japanese feel the insult even more," it concludes.

"Brutal and Dangerous"

"America's good faith and national honor are brought into question" by the Japanese clause, according to the democratic Polish paper, DZIENNIK CHICAGOSKI, of Chicago, which declares that

Such an act is an international offense, and so proud and cultured a nation as Japan will not take it quietly... It would seem that members of Congress have no sense of responsibility toward the administrative branches of the Government representing the United States in other countries... This legislation was unlooked for, brutal and dangerous. It was not made necessary by any imminently dangerous situation on the Pacific Coast, and it is not what the vast majority of the American people desired...

"A thrust at the whole Japanese nation and an insult to its pride and honor that may prove injurious to the United States" is the phrase used by another Polish journal, the Republican TELEGRAM CODZIENNY, of New York. This paper thinks "Japan will try to avenge this insult, and she has many possibilities for doing so." The Republican German GAZETTE-DEMOCRAT, of Philadelphia, holds that "if the United States is bent upon restricting immigration it is logical to exclude those who for 134 years have been denied citizenship by Federal law."

By way or original comment, the independent Lithuanian DARBININKAS, of Boston, advances a theory that the Hanihara note was deliberately drawn to hasten cancellation of the "Gentlemen's Agreement." With that agreement out of the way, it reasons "the Tokio government will not be responsible for increased immigration to the United States. It can easily be understood that immigration

will increase. Even the severest American law will not stop it. Without doubt there will be many American organizations which will smuggle Japanese into America. There will be many ways open for this. Just as at present Europeans are brought in through Canada and Mexico, many more Japanese will be brought in by Japanese ships, airplanes and submarines."

It was going entirely too far "when a foreigner, the representative of a foreign government, tried to dictate the kind of law we should enact," says the independent Slovak organ, DENNY HLAS, of Cleveland. This paper thinks "the decision on Japanese immigration would have been different" had the ambassador not made his protest, "so it comes about that the tactlessness of a diplomat entails hardships not only for his own nation but for many others." A Republican Hungarian journal, the SZABADSAG, of Cleveland, argues bluntly that "if there are too many Japanese the United States has a right to turn the surplus away. The Yellows would do the same thing in a similar situation."

Blames the Ambassador

DZIENNIK ZWIĄZKOWY, the Republican Polish paper, of Chicago, thinks it strange that in America there should have "immediately cropped up groups which protest against the action of Congress, instead of supporting it at a time when the national honor of America is on trial." Concerning the popular protests reported from Japan, it says:

All this is really only superficial talk, designed to frighten Americans into exerting pressure upon the President to veto the bill when it reaches him... If the Japanese nation feels insulted because the United States inserts a clause in its immigration law to forbid the entrance of a people who do not qualify for citizenship then there is all the more reason for Americans to take offense at the attempt by Tokio to dictate what they shall or shall not do in their own country, which they have built up by dint of hard labor and for which they have shed their blood... Responsibility for the whole affair rests on the Japanese ambassador, who should have foreseen the result of his protest and worded it in a different manner.

Several editors discuss the possibility of both military and economic reprisals by Japan. "Wrecking the 'Gentlemen's Agreement' on the Senate rocks may bring swift retribution in Japan's refusal to trade with America, and similar action by China," says the independent Slovak NEW YORK DENNIK. The Japanese ambassador's

note was "unpardonable" according to the Democratic Czech ~~ELAS~~, of St. Louis, but it adds that "Japan will regard acceptance of the exclusion bill with the President's signature attached as a deep offense against the entire nation and the consequences may be an attack on Manila and the Hawaiian Islands." The independent German ABENDPOST, of Chicago, scouts the idea of hostilities by Japan, despite her chance "to strike a blow at the Philippines, which lie at her door." Exclusion of the Yellow Race will remain an accomplished fact, in the opinion of the independent German FREIE PRESSE, of Cincinnati, which concludes that "in the meanwhile the Senate will very quietly put aside the proposal of Senator Pepper to suggest to the President the calling of a new disarmament conference. One does not propose disarmament when there is a question of unlimited international possibilities."

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Editorial Digest Vol. II, No. 7

August 20, 1924.

PICKING THE NEXT PRESIDENT

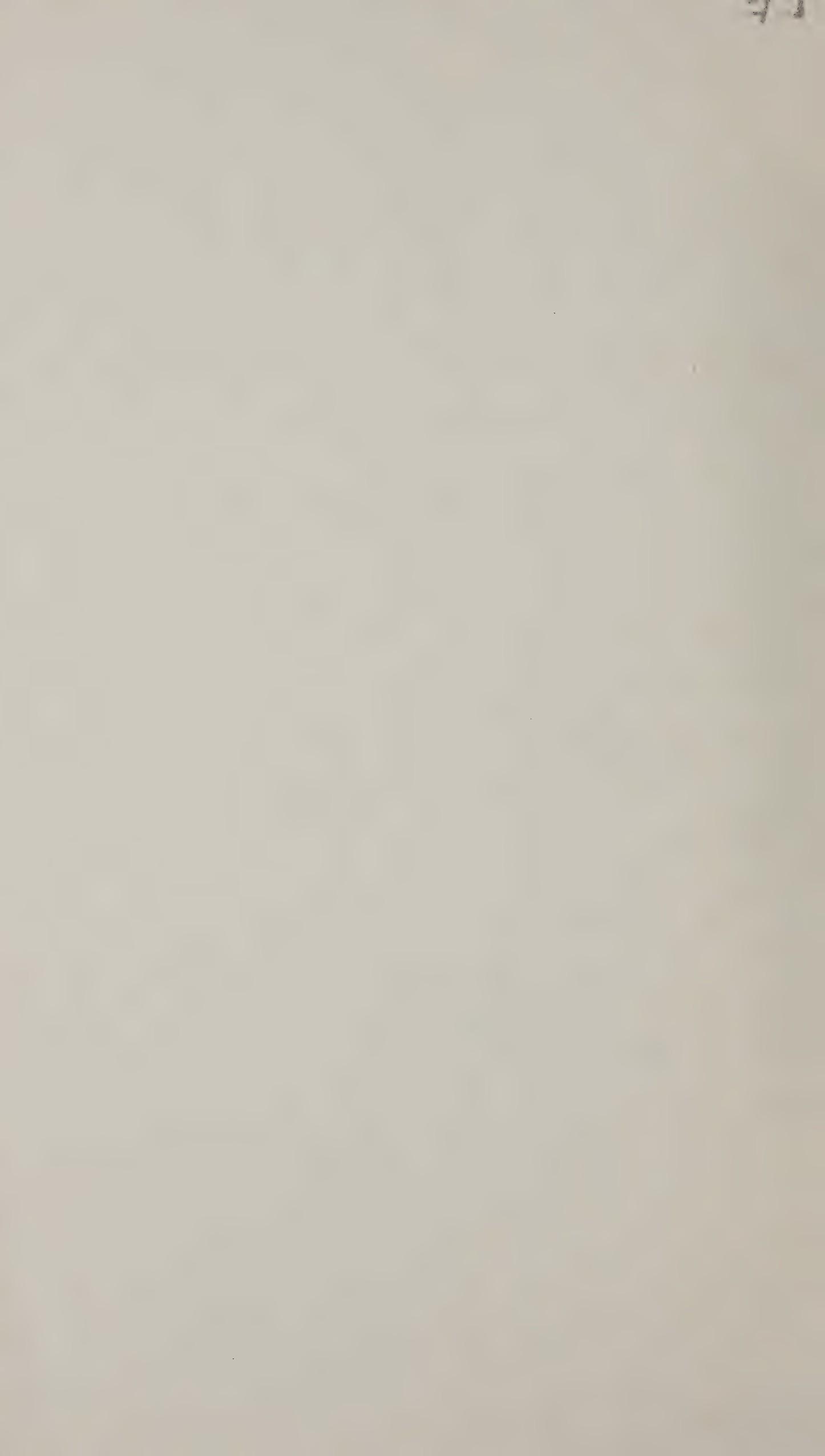
Deep Interest Shown By Foreign Language Editors in Candidates Chosen And Platforms Approved By Old And New Political Parties.

A lively interest in the current presidential campaign began to show itself many months ago among editors and readers of the foreign language press of the United States. Throughout the winter and early summer much concern was expressed over the stand which assembled politicians might take on such issues as the Ku Klux Klan, immigration, prohibition and other themes of paramount interest. The work of the Republican and Democratic national conventions, and the birth of a new party ticket at Cleveland, has put an end to much speculative discussion and lead to the formation of definite opinions.

Only moderate enthusiasm for any of the platforms adopted is expressed in the foreign ^{THE LANGUAGE OF THE} press as a whole. There is a widespread disposition shown to support the LaFollette-Wheeler ticket, apparently on the ground expressed by ^{Aug 27 1924} DENNI HLASATEL (Czechoslovak) of Chicago, that a ~~vote for the third party~~ would discipline the older parties "and compel them to play upon new strings and stop trying the patience of the voters." To native Americans the political field looks crowded when more than two major parties contend for presidential or congressional honors, but it is not so with the foreign born American. From three to a dozen or more parties are the rule in most European countries, where cabinets in office ordinarily represent a coalition of several parties which have been most favored by the voters.

COOLIDGE AND DAVIS COMPARED

"By nominating John W. Davis," says the Republican AMERIKAI MAGYAR



NEPSZAVA (Hungarian), of New York, "the Democratic Party enters the campaign with a candidate who is almost a perfect pendant of Coolidge. In economics he is as cautious and free from demogogy; as a politician he is as aloof and distant as President Coolidge himself." The deadlock and crisis in the convention produced Davis, this paper thinks, plus what it calls the helpful opposition of William Jennings Bryan. It terms the proposed referendum on the League of Nations "absurd and impracticable", and predicts a Coolidge victory. Likewise, another Republican paper, GLAS NARODA (Jugoslav), of New York, finds that "the Democratic candidate was nominated in order to avoid a split which threatened the party. Davis is a henchman of big business," it says, "and in spite of Bryan the western farmers will not vote for him. The only hope left to the Democrats is that LaFollette will take away from Coolidge more votes and states than from Davis."

Yet the independent Ukrainian journal, SVOBODA, of Jersey City, picks Mr. Davis as the best vote getter, in the course of an editorial which contains the following passage:

President Coolidge is not a man of genius or of superior ability. He is a poor speaker; he lacks courage and aggressiveness. On the other hand, in order to overcome those inborn deficiencies of his nature, he has developed such faculties as assiduity, industry, endurance, caution and stubbornness. The continual mental effort to strengthen these faculties and to maintain himself with their help makes him tired and sad and bars the smile from his face. Endowed as he is, Mr. Coolidge can hardly become a great personality, but he is likely to be a good public officer and administrator. However, the American political tradition and the Constitution itself require that the President of the United States be a person of outstanding characteristics and superior mind, wise, experienced and aggressive, rather than an efficient performer of official duties. Therefore, as an aspirant to the white house the Democratic candidate, John William Davis, is much better fitted to impress himself upon the American people and to win votes.

It is not the contrast, however, but what they consider the similarity between Mr. Davis and President Coolidge that induces other papers to assail the Democratic nominee. His nomination "secures the other front" for big business, according to the Socialist DZIENNIK LUDOWY (Polish), of Chicago, which says, "the conservative Coolidge is the representative of industrial capital; the conservative Davis is the representative of banking capital," and "whether Coolidge or Davis is elected, it will be all the same to large capital," this paper believes. Another Polish journal, the independent NOWY SWIAT, of New York, remarks that, "of course, the supporters of Davis disclaim hotly

that their candidate is a tool of trusts and corporations. They will no doubt look up many 'facts' to show that the representative of American finance is the friend and defender of labor. They will prove that he is almost as radical, and a far better kind of radical, than Senator LaFollette. This, however, will not change the facts. The Democratic party, having large opportunities for making its aims and principles definitely different from those of the reactionary Republican party, has failed to do so." A Republican paper, the Hungarian SZABADSAG, of Cleveland, joins readily in the same cry, adding that "Davis is washing his hands; he declares that he will withdraw from all the money interest so that he can better serve the people. One wonders whether the American people will believe the promise. It is very questionable." Another Republican paper, the VOLKSBLATT & FREIHEITSFREUND (German), of Pittsburgh, remarks: "Hearst was against Davis; Bryan was against him - all of which speaks in his favor. It is very doubtful, however, if he can draw the votes of progressives, liberals and laborers away from that honest and courageous man of the people, LaFollette". In like vein, the independent German TAGLICHE VOLKSZEITUNG, of St. Paul, points to the banking associations of Mr. Davis and says of his nomination that "the only conceivable result will be that LaFollette will receive 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 more votes than he would ordinarily have received."

WAR AND WILSON RECALLED

German newspapers in many parts of the country hurl the charge of "pro-British" against the Democratic nominee. "He cannot be blamed for the fact that he looks very strikingly like the late President Wilson," concedes the independent CINCINNATI FREIE PRESSE, and goes on: "What tells more against him is the fact that spiritually he is very much akin to the greatest of all Englishmen, as a London paper once named Mr. Wilson." The Republican WESTLICHE POST, of St. Louis, thinks "Davis is an Anglomaniac to an even greater degree than Woodrow Wilson was...His aggressive Anglo-Saxonism is an insult and a challenge to millions of voters." The independent NEW YORK HEROLD caps its resentment by saying: "If Mr. Davis enters the white house the subscription for the London Times, begun by Woodrow Wilson, will be renewed, for the Democratic candidate is a great friend of the English and is an honorary member of the English bar."

Foreign born Americans had apparently looked more to the Democratic than to the Republican convention and candidate for emphatic announcement

respecting the Ku Klux Klan, prohibition and the League of Nations, for it is with the failure of the Democrats to deal specifically with these issues that most fault is found. The independent SVET (Czechoslovak), of Cleveland, laments that "the Democratic party recalled in inspired language its great dead leader, the War President Woodrow Wilson, but the child which he left behind - the League of Nations - it failed to clasp tightly to its bosom. Even the splendid speech of our own Newton D. Baker, the best speech delivered at the convention, could not persuade it to accept it." It adds:

To be sure the Democrats did not express themselves in opposition to the League, but recommended that it be submitted to a popular referendum to decide whether the United States shall enter or not. In short, the Democrats listened to the voice of practical politics, which told them that it would be difficult to make the League the crucial question in this presidential campaign.

Two Democratic papers in the Jewish group in New York react bitterly to their party's failure to name the Ku Klux Klan at the New York convention. This "criminal" failure, says the DAILY NEWS, "happened because the convention feared the loss of votes in States where the Klan is influential. The convention sold conscience for votes." According to THE DAY, the tactical problem for the convention was whether to defy the Klan or to copy the Republican silence on the subject in order to win votes in some sections. When it came to attacking what the paper calls the Republican-Klan alliance, "the leaders of the Democratic party did not have the courage necessary for it. The Klan was victorious at the convention to the detriment of the Democratic party and the whole country."

"GREAT CHANCE THROWN AWAY"

The independent STAATSZEITUNG (German), of New York, agrees that in failing to denounce the Ku Klux Klan by name, the Democratic convention missed "an opportunity of redeeming itself such as may never come again," and that the chance was thrown away by "capitulation in the face of a secret society which exercises a rule of terror over the citizens of the country." A Republican organ, the MORNING JOURNAL (Jewish), of New York, finds that "public opinion condemns the Democrats for their stand on the Klan," and concludes that "LaFollette will probably draw more votes away from the Democratic than from the Republican party."

Appearance of the Klan and a religious issue in American politics is deeply regretted by the independent COPRIERE D'AMERICA (Italian), of New York, which says "any religious feeling in politics is very deplorable, for it is contrary to American custom, which has always left re-

ligious discussions aside. Every American is ashamed of this religious issue.....knowing that it is dangerous to mix religion and politics." Similar regret is shown by another Italian paper, the independent LA STAMPA UNITA, of Rochester. It says:

If there is a mistake, or a "faux pas" to be made the Democrats will make it nine times out of ten, while the Republicans will gracefully dodge or side-step the issue and laugh up their sleeves. The Ku Klux Klan issue had no more place in the Democratic convention than it had in the Republican convention. If the Republicans were able to pass that crisis without any split in the party, would not the Democrats have been wise to have followed the same tactics? Klanism will die a natural death, like all things founded on bigotry.

Comparing the two old party platforms, the independent NEW YORK LISTY (Czechoslovak) finds "it is noteworthy that the Democratic party has manifested a far more open frankness than the Republicans in expressing itself on such questions as prohibition, the Ku Klux Klan and the League of Nations." On the last named subject it is charged by the independent RUSSKY GOLCS (Russian), of New York, that "Mr. Davis is for 'helping Europe' but is very obscure in defining his attitude toward the League of Nations." This paper admires the Davis speech of acceptance as "an operatic performance" and concludes with: "If you have nothin to say, say it beautifully at least." The treatment accorded to prohibition in all the party platforms disappoints the independent ABENDPOST (German), of Chicago, which says "the issue will remain very much alive until it dies a more or less peaceful death," and it relies upon "Robert M. LaFollette, the independent candidate," to see that the subject is "thoroughly threshed out", regardless of platforms adopted.

A wide diversity of interests is disclosed among those who urge support of the LaFollette-Wheeler ticket. In recommending that choice to Lithuanian readers, the independent VIENYBE, of Brooklyn, says:

The American public is concerned, among other things, with railroad ownership, tax reduction, the Ku Klux Klan and finally with prohibition. As it stands today prohibition is a dangerous question with the poorer class, involving theft and other kinds of law breaking. The well-to-do laugh at the law, import their liquor and accept bribes. To this and similar questions the Republican and Democratic platforms make no answer, or if these topics are mentioned they are veiled.

Both old parties are similarly blamed by an independent German paper, the BALTIMORE CORRESPONDENT, which declares "John W. Davis is the prototype of the bigoted South and as a representative of Wall Street and the Ku Klux Klan principles his platform is just as weak as that of Coolidge," whereas "Robert M. LaFollette has boldly challenged the Ku Klux Klan and done what was to be expected from a man with his record."

Still farther South another German voice, that of the independent FREIE PRESSE fuer TEXAS, is heard saying that "all honest citizens who want to get rid of the disgraceful administration at Washington, all liberty loving people who desire to take the government of America out of the hands of predatory interests, will vote for LaFollette." And no one "has more reason to rejoice at the outcome of the Democratic convention than Robert M. LaFollette, upon whom large masses of Americans are pinning their hopes," says the independent ROCHESTER ABENDPOST (German). "Millions from the Atlantic to the Pacific will joyfully receive the news that LaFollette is a candidate," agrees the independent DEUTSCH AMERIKANISCHE BUERGERZEITUNG (German), of Chicago.

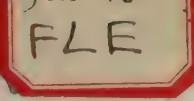
Socialist papers discuss the prospects for a permanent Labor party growing out of the LaFollette campaign rather than specific faults in the old party platforms. The Lithuanian NAUJIENOS, of Chicago, thinks "the third party will not only lean toward the workers but strongly toward the Socialists," and "if the Cleveland gathering failed to organize a party which would embrace all the workers it was because the American workers are not yet prepared for it," PROLETAREC (Jugoslav), of Chicago, believes "the unions, which have come closer to us and we nearer to them, are more and more aware that political action is a weapon which may serve the workers as well as the capitalists. We have made the first successful move toward a 'united front'. Other steps will follow..."

LAFOLLETTE CALLED DICTATOR

The Worker's party paper LAISVE (Lithuanian), of Brooklyn, mocks at Senator LaFollette's repudiation of a proletarian dictatorship, saying: "His attitude at Cleveland was the attitude of a dictator; his followers had to dance as he played." It adds that "LaFollette is no more dangerous to American imperialistic capital than the Socialists Herriot and MacDonald are to France and England." And "the real electoral fight," according to a second Worker's party paper, UJ ELORE (Hungarian) of New York, "will be between the Republican and Democratic candidates of Morgan" on the one hand and the Communist ticket.

LaFollette will draw heavily from the Republican strength, in the opinion of the Democratic Ameriska Domovina (Jugoslav), of Cleveland, but he is "a man full of pugnacious phrases which...mean nothing", and we are reminded that "Roosevelt, a man much more popular and earnest in his day than LaFollette, started a third party and failed." A Republic organ, the Polish DZIENNIK ZWIĄZKOWY, of Chicago, is also persuaded that

"if the strong and popular Roosevelt was unable to win, LaFollette has much less chance of obtaining a big vote." Omission of "the Ku Klux Klan, the prohibition question, the League of Nations and the International Court of Justice" from the LaFollette platform "is a sign of 'soft-pedalling' and 'adjustment' which does not tally with the aggressive, fiery political reputation of the Senator," in the opinion of the independent Italian paper, GAZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS, Boston. "There are none outside his admirers who think LaFollette will be elected," says the independent TEVEYNE (Lithuanian), of New York, but it sees him being supported by many dissatisfied elements, and thinks "he may be the cause of an unusual situation in the presidential election should none of the candidates receive enough electoral votes to insure a victory."



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INTERPRETER RELEASES NOT 84 1924

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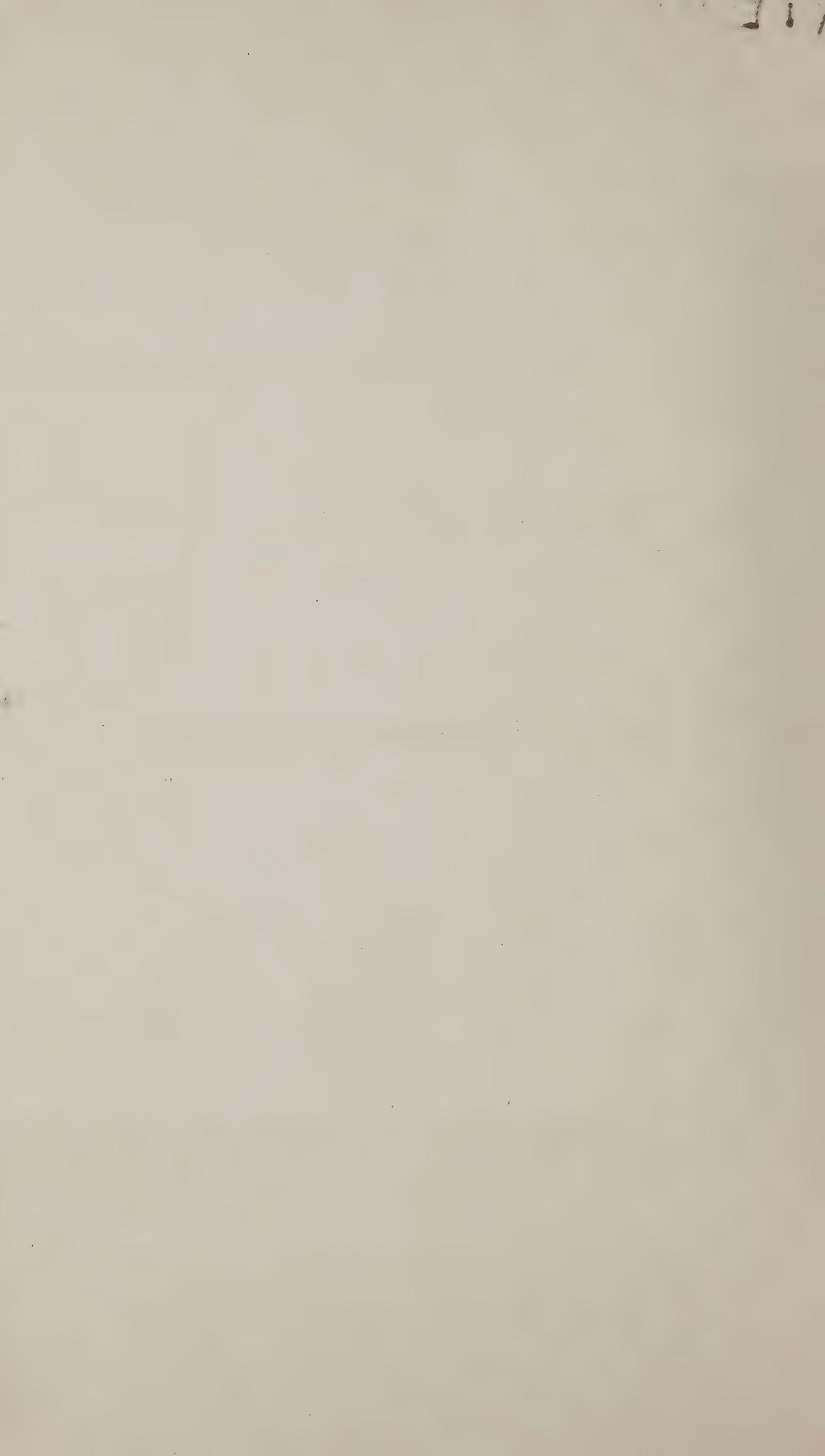
October 7, 1924.

DELIVERING THE "GERMAN VOTE"

How the Steuben Society's Endorsement of LaFollette Looks to and through the German Language Papers in America.

How many of the alleged "6,000,000 German votes" will go to Senator LaFollette on November 4 is a question raised in many quarters since officers of the Steuben Society gave their endorsement to the Independent candidate for President. A survey of the German language press throughout the country does not answer the question, although it indicates beyond doubt that Senator LaFollette is favored by a considerable plurality of German language editors. But these editors, as a rule, admonish their readers to vote the third party ticket without claiming that all citizens of German extraction will do so. There are papers, also, which repeat the strong denunciation of LaFollette and his associates' and program which came from some members of the Steuben Society who rebelled from the action of its leaders. Such a paper is the independent Cincinnati FREIE PRESSE, which has this to say:

"In unison with the vilest jingo papers, the Steubenites are revelling in abuse.... The war is over and if we expect others to forget it we must forget it, too. Our present duty lies in discerning what is for the welfare of our country and what is not. It certainly cannot be for the best interest of our country if we support efforts which tend to the destruction of all that was built up in a long and glorious past. The civic and national position of German-Americans depends on the degree of our comprehension of the spirit that has guided the development of this country since the days of Washington. It is not a spirit of revolution.



It is not the spirit that rules the Steuben Society today. It is the spirit that maintains the good, and with a sure hand lays stone upon stone. That spirit does not display itself in vulgar abuse of our national institutions and representative men, not in threats and noisy demonstrations, but in loyal adherence to duty, which was ever a German trait and which we are proud to have brought with us across the ocean. A wide abyss separates the Steuben Society, as represented by its leaders, from that spirit, the American spirit in the true sense of the word."

A few days later the same journal said of Senator LaFollette's running mate:

"When Senator Wheeler was chosen by the so-called Progressives to be their candidate for Vice-President we knew that the country was in for a dirty campaign. If there was such a thing as a mob in the United States Senate, Wheeler would be its natural leader. Wheeler thinks as the mob thinks. Wheeler speaks as the mob speaks. Someone said that Wheeler was spiritually akin to Lenin, without considering how much the memory of the Bolshevik leader was thereby befouled."

The majority of voters concerned in the action of the Steuben Society "favor all those candidates who have inscribed the revision of the Versailles Treaty on their party banners," according to the nominally Republican Milwaukee HEROLD. "This they have a perfect right to do as loyal American citizens." The HEROLD then turns to the charge that race feeling is being appealed to for campaign purposes, and offers its readers the following sample of material sent to its office, written in very poor German, from headquarters of one of the big parties:

"... Although only a few years have passed since peace was concluded, we can say with satisfaction that the German immigrant is again welcomed as a desirable element in immigration. In fact, Germany has the most favorable quota of any country on the European continent... It was the Republican administration that reached out a helping hand to Germany, that sent food, medicine and other necessities, that did all in its power to bring peace and prosperity to the world. These activities of the Republican administration should fill us Germans with great satisfaction... The coming presidential election is of the utmost importance for the American citizen of German descent. It is important, too, for the German across the ocean. President Coolidge and General Dawes have both given proof that they can deal with affairs of international character with tact and decision. We owe it to them that the faces of the little children in Germany are again lighted up with the sunshine of childish laughter. These men have driven hunger and misery and the terrors of war out of Germany...."

"That," remarks the HEROLD, "is how they try to catch the voter of German descent. They try to make use of a racial feeling and prejudice that may exist - the very thing that was set down as treason during the war and is still branded as a political crime. This is not being done by the German language press or by the Steuben Society or by some other German-American association, but by campaign leaders who want by all means to keep the present administration in power. The insult offered us is this, that they think us so stupid as to swallow the bait."

The Steuben Society, according to papers like the one just quoted, "is a patriotic association of American citizens in whose veins runs German blood." It came into being because "the war fanatics immediately turned into fanatical persecutors of a race and wanted to forbid the holding of religious services in German, banish the study of the German language from our schools and abolish its use entirely..." We read in the independent New York HEROLD:

"As we understand it, the Steuben Society bases its support of LaFollette not only on his attitude on questions connected with the war but on the fact that when the German-Americans were vilified by the 'hundred percenters' as disloyal, and exposed to much vexation, he was foremost among the defenders of these citizens. Raving agitators during the war demanded that religious services in German be forbidden, German newspapers suppressed and the use of the German language abolished. Senator LaFollette was one of the most fearless opponents of these demands, and because of that he made warm friends among the German-Americans.

"As to the assertion (made by Mr. Nehring, a dissenting member of the Steuben family) that a victory for the Progressive candidate will mean a victory for the radical element, every voter can draw his own conclusions from the LaFollette platform... The platform favors proposals that would naturally result in a profound upheaval of our whole economic life. Whether they will have much effect upon the voter is open to doubt. The vast majority of German-Americans will probably stick to LaFollette not because they are in favor of his economic plans but because their hearts go out to the 'Wisconsin Lion'."

"Of course," says the independent Cleveland WAECHTER UND ANZEIGER, "one does not have to agree with all the planks in the LaFollette platform in order to give him full support... He has entirely forfeited his right to be called a liberal who unduly exaggerates and objects to this or that plank in the Progressive platform... in order to refuse his support... for that reason only." In the same vein, the Bismarck STAATSANZEIGER holds that "there is certainly something wrong with the American in whose veins runs German blood, be he a native of Germany, Russia, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary or Bohemia, who does not vote for LaFollette. The same is true of the millions of their descendants."

LaFollette is approved by the New York STAATSZEITUNG, independent, because "he sponsors the revision of the Versailles Treaty, which is holding the world in its deadly embrace." And because of this "condemnation of the Versailles Treaty... German-Americans are first among the heterogeneous elements that have flocked together under the LaFollette banner," thinks the independent Rochester ABENDPOST.

"That reminds us," interrupts the Workers' Party organ, VOLKSZEITUNG, of New York, "that at the recent London Conference there were no more energetic defenders of the inviolability of the Versailles Treaty than the liberal premiers MacDonald and Herriot. As President, Robert Marion LaFollette would have to do as bidden in this question by the Morgan-Rockefeller interests, just as MacDonald and Herriot were forced to do, who personally would like to tear the infamous treaty to shreds."

The St. Paul TAEGLICHE VOLKSZEITUNG, independent, quotes approvingly an appeal by the German American Citizens Association, of Chicago, to all voters of German descent to labor without rest for a LaFollette victory. Other journals that are clearly in the same mood include the two independent papers, Buffalo TAEGLICHER and SUED-CALIFORNISCHE DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, and the nominally Republican CALIFORNIA JOURNAL, of San Francisco.

Is there really a "German bloc" of voters that will act as a unit, or that can be delivered by any groups of leaders? The independent Chicago ABENDPOST is very skeptical on both points. In an objective review of the situation it says:

"There is much talk about six million German votes that are to be cast at the next election. Where these six million German votes come from is not quite clear. The story probably owes its origin to James M. Cox, presidential candidate in 1920. Mr. Cox said that six million German traitors, under the leadership of a gentleman in New York, would vote the Republican ticket. This New York gentleman, a very enterprising man, a business man and a literary man, who even publishes a little monthly magazine in the interest of his business, naturally does not control six million votes. He does not control any vote except his own. When Cox declared that this industrious gentleman would march into the Republican camp at the head of six million voters he uttered the choicest nonsense uttered in the entire campaign. And all who remember that campaign know what that means.

"Now the Steuben Society, with which the New York gentleman is intimately connected, has promised to deliver these six million German votes to LaFollette. It seems rather doubtful whether the Steuben Society will be able to fulfill its promise. First of all, there are no six million German votes, and secondly, the Steuben Society would not have them to give away. German votes, in the sense spoken of in the news dispatches, do not exist. The voters of German descent...are in reality 100 per cent Americans, although they generally resent this expression as jingoistic. Of course there are some intriguers and queer people among them; but these are exceptions and because of their small number they do not count. It is the purest nonsense to maintain that the majority of the voters of German descent can be controlled by the Steuben Society. The fact remains, however, that the cause of LaFollette is adopted with great enthusiasm in these circles.

"If the men and women of German descent should decide to support LaFollette, they are fully entitled to do so, as much as the American Federation of Labor or the Railroad Brotherhoods. Should they vote for Coolidge or Davis they will also act within their rights. The politics of the German language press, too, is purely American. Some of the papers have retained their old love for the Republican and Democratic parties; others have turned to LaFollette. Any-one may criticize the political tendency of a paper, but no one has the right to cast suspicion on its motives."

INTERPRETER RELEASES

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America to the Immigrant"

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Vol. II No. 9

October 30, 1924.

NEARER TO PEACE, OR TO WAR?

Hope and Endorsement Are Contrasted with Fear and Rejection
in Comment of Foreign Language Editors on the
League Plan for World Arbitration.

Strong faith that the world has been brought nearer to peace by the arbitration plan of the League of Nations is expressed by some editors of the foreign language press in the United States, in contrast with a fear voiced by other immigrant editors that a super-government has disclosed itself at Geneva and given fresh strength to anti-League sentiment in this country.

Very few newspapers, proportionately, have taken part in the discussion as yet, which may be due to current interest in the presidential campaign. It is highly significant to find that the sentiments of foreign language editors fall nearly always into the familiar American categories, indicating again that the views of immigrant editors are "typical American" views, unless their native lands are more closely affected than by the present international agreement.

Newspapers which support the new protocol admit that it is less than a sure guarantee against future wars, but they laud the spirit of conciliation among statesmen and peoples which they believe it reflects and hail it as a long step toward the outlawing of armed conflict between nations. Opposing journals insist that the League's decision to bring within its province disputes with non-member nations points to war rather than to peace.

Hint of Cosgrave Leaves Bad Impression

Although this issue is usually discussed by editors quite apart from the absorbing interests of the presidential campaign, a Republican daily of Chicago, L'ITALIA, remarks that "the news from Geneva could not have arrived at a worse time for the Democrats, who accuse the Republicans of not displaying a sufficient interest in foreign affairs," because the proposal that "rulings of the League shall be enforced even upon nations that are outside the League has made even the most tolerant Americans lose their patience." L'ITALIA sympathizes with the League's objective, however, and regrets that "progress toward permanent peace must be made much more slowly than universal aspirations would wish it."

The Republican WESTLICHE POST (German), of Milwaukee, finds it "somewhat surprising" that after several years during which "the United States was treated very gingerly by the League and was the object of unpleasantly cringing overtures, . . . Uncle Sam should now be told that he must submit to the obligatory arbitration of the League, just as though he were a member of it." Another German paper, the independent Chicago ABENDPOST, thinks it safe to assume that "the cause of the League has received a heavy blow in the United States by the events at Geneva." It believes that "both Canada and Australia will get out of the League sooner than have their immigration policies interfered with, and the United States is in the same boat."

Sees New Conflict Coming

"Japan's Victory" is the title given to a discussion of the subject by the independent OGNIŠKO DOMOWE (Polish), of Detroit, which pictures the opposition of America and the British Empire to the new League protocol and finds that "because of this, and in spite of the great effort to prevent another war, there is a dark and ominous cloud hanging on the horizon which presages a new conflict, and the armament of nations, instead of lessening, is on the increase.... The World War was not thoroughly concluded and the inevitable new war is being prepared for by Japan and Russia, with the help of Germany." An independent Lithuanian paper, DRAUGAS, of Chicago, holds that the United States "refused to ratify the Versailles Treaty and join the League of Nations because the treaty was filled

with an autocratic spirit," and of "the secret move at Geneva to force America into the League" it says: "Many Americans who desire to see the United States in the European political whirlpool support this plan. These people are not concerned with the fate of the United States, they desire only that President Wilson's idea should live."

"The idea of a super-state was veiled as much as possible in the original draft of the League of Nations covenant, as woven into the Treaty of Versailles", the German STAATSZEITUNG, of New York, argues, "but that veil of concealment is now torn aside." It holds, however, that "as a super-state the League is a dead thing and the mannikin produced by compromise is an absurdity." The sad disregard of treaties and agreements by many powers in the recent war persuades the independent Hungarian organ A HET, of New York, that "the willingness of Europe not to start another war must be doubted." It pleads for "a disarmament of souls" and a "removal of conditions which stimulate the thought of war," saying:

"As long as the fiercely embittered nations of the Balkans glare at each other with fire in their eyes, while Germany is held to economic slavery for half a century to come, with generations growing up in many countries saturated with the thought of revenge, there can be no hope that Geneva will accomplish disarmament and put an end to war."

Deep pessimism regarding the peace plan overcomes the editor of the Republican HEROLD (German), of Milwaukee, when he considers "a report made by the experts from the poison gas industry from all civilized countries to the League of Nations, stating that there are now more than 1,000 kinds of poison gas, while at the time of the World War only 30 were known." He adds:

"Finally, we want to present a picture that is amiable and idyllic compared with the dreadful horrors indicated above. Major General George A. Squier has reported the invention of a 'procedure' that is to make all future wars quite bloodless. This 'procedure' consistsent is gassing the enemy from airplanes directed not by men but by radio. It is a harmless method whereby the enemy soldiers would be put to sleep lasting 48 hours and accompanied by the most delightful dreams. During those 48 hours the sleeping army would doubtless be disarmed and come in for some surprises when it woke up."

It is good, thinks the Republican SVENSKA AMERIKANAREN (Swedish), of Chicago, "to have the crime of war defined and the punishment established; but a good theory is not enough. Every country has its laws for criminal offenses, but have such laws had any other result than to make criminals more cautious and ingenious to continue the way of crime and escape punishment?" There is more hope in the office of the Democratic TAGBLAT (Jewish), of New York, whose editor believes the propaganda value of the League plan is alone "a very good thing and will bring us nearer the time when war will be ended forever."

"League Becomes a Real Authority"

The new protocol, "although by no means perfect, is in extent and concept a truly epochal document...of immeasurable political significance," in the opinion of the independent Czech LISTY, of New York. And while "some great nations are still standing aloof from the League it is bound in the course of time to become an authority which it will not be well to oppose." The same paper thinks that "as long as there is as much good will among determined statesmen of the world as at present and while public opinion supports their efforts as it does not we may be confident that the world is entering upon a new and better era."

The independent Slovak paper OBRAZA, of Scranton, believes that the League's protocol "lays a firm foundation for the world conference next year" and that when the International Court is given jurisdiction over all international disputes" its decisions will be accepted as wise and its judgment found satisfactory to all."

In the course of an ardent endorsement of the League of Nations and its work, the independent Jewish TAG, of New York, says:

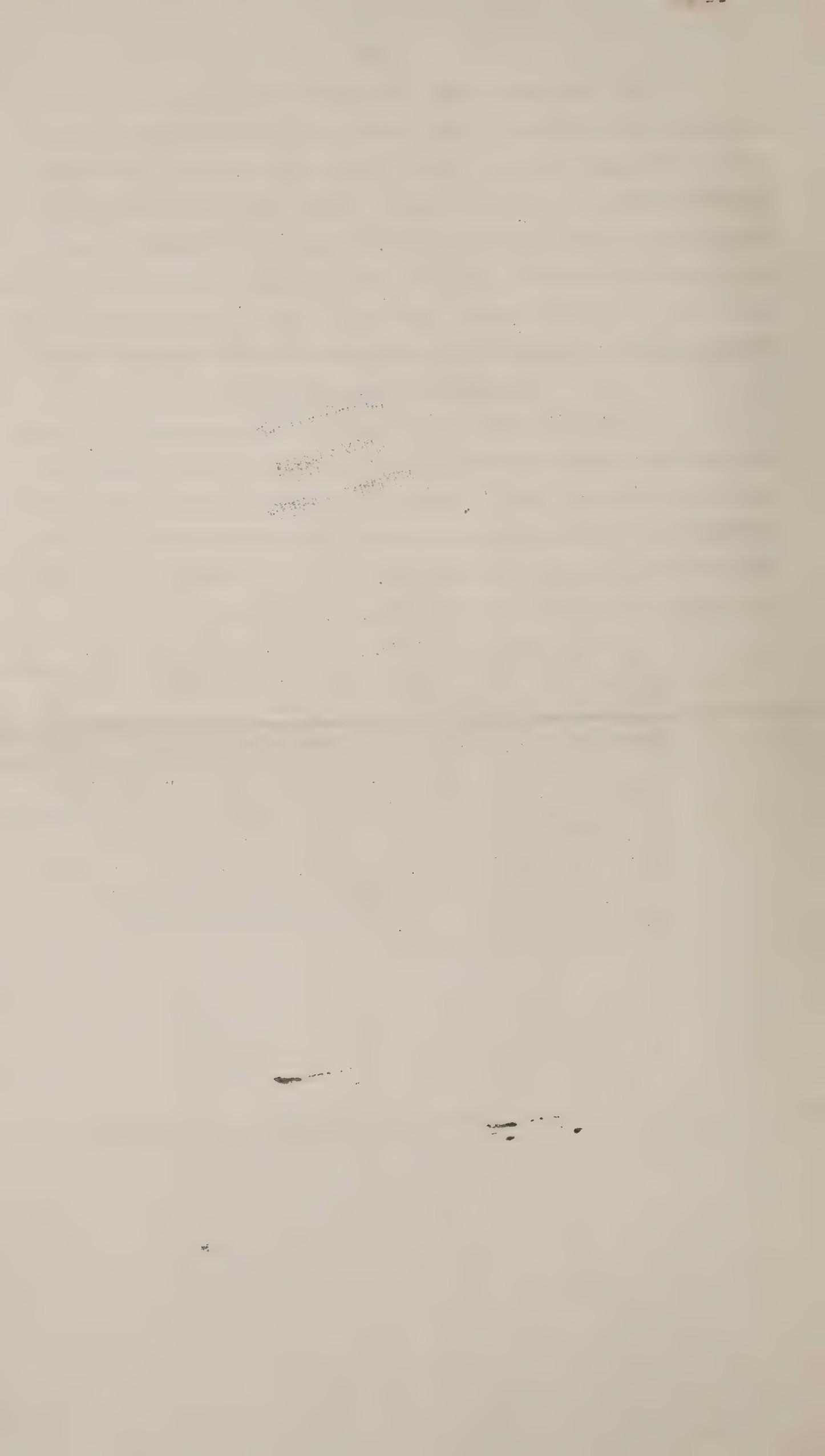
"Six months ago there was still good reason to fear that the League might yet become, like The Hague tribunal, nothing more than a fine symbol and a hope, a memorial to Wilson, a remnant saved not from the destruction of war but of the post-war days. Today the world watches with bated breath the progress of the most serious attempt yet made, in the form of the new protocol, to grapple with the problem of war.... Most interesting of all is the role that is being played by the small nations, Czechoslovakia and Greece, represented by Benes and Politis, have played as large a role here as France and Great Britain. It is a sign that is tremendously welcome. It shows that the time is coming when small nations will no longer be merely proteges, dependent on the whims and freak policies of the great powers. It shows that the words of Ramsey MacDonald, wherein he warned the small nations against putting their trust in alliances, have sunk deep. Small nations are the ones that stand to gain most from the new regime, and they realize it now."

The Socialist organ, NAUJIENOS (Lithuanian), of Chicago, thinks the United States is not consistent when it protests against having the League interest itself in what have usually been called domestic affairs. It recalls that "during the war President Wilson demanded as a peace condition from Germany that it throw off its kaiseristic government", that the same administration "interfered with armed forces" in the domestic affairs of Russia and "employed coercive measures against Mexico" in disputes over Mexico's internal affairs.

Anglo-Saxon Selfishness Seen

HRVATSKI GLASNIK, an independent Croatian paper of Chicago, reviews the so-called domestic issues of "immigration, labor, coast navigation, customs duties, white slavery and the opium trade" which it finds that the United States and the British Dominions especially deny that the League of Nations has a right to concern itself with. Respecting the position of those countries it says:

Their standpoint, even if it can be successfully sustained from the viewpoint of national sovereignty, nevertheless expresses a patent egotism. The United States, Great Britain and Russia have become the owners of immense parts of the globe which are today mostly uninhabited. Great Britain has also taken possession of all the former German colonies. Where then is the over-population of Japan, Germany and Italy to go?... The main point (in the League protocol) is that before any nation goes to war against another all means for a peaceful solution of the issue shall first have been exhausted. If Great Britain and her dominions do not ratify the protocol, then the whole world will know that the Anglo-Saxon peoples, who talk so much about the need for peace, are on their side not sincere, and that for them 'peace' means only the inviolability of their own interests and the submission of all other countries to those interests.



FILE

FOREIGN LANGUAGE INFORMATION SERVICE

119 WEST FORTY-FIRST STREET, NEW YORK CITY

INTERPRETER RELEASES

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Editorial Digest Vol. II No. 10

THE EDITORIAL OF THE
November 21, 1924.

NOV 29 1924
REVIEWING THE COOLIDGE TRIUMPH.
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Foreign Language Editors Analyze Causes Which Produced Great
Republican Landslide, And Speculate On Probable
Tendencies During Next Four Years

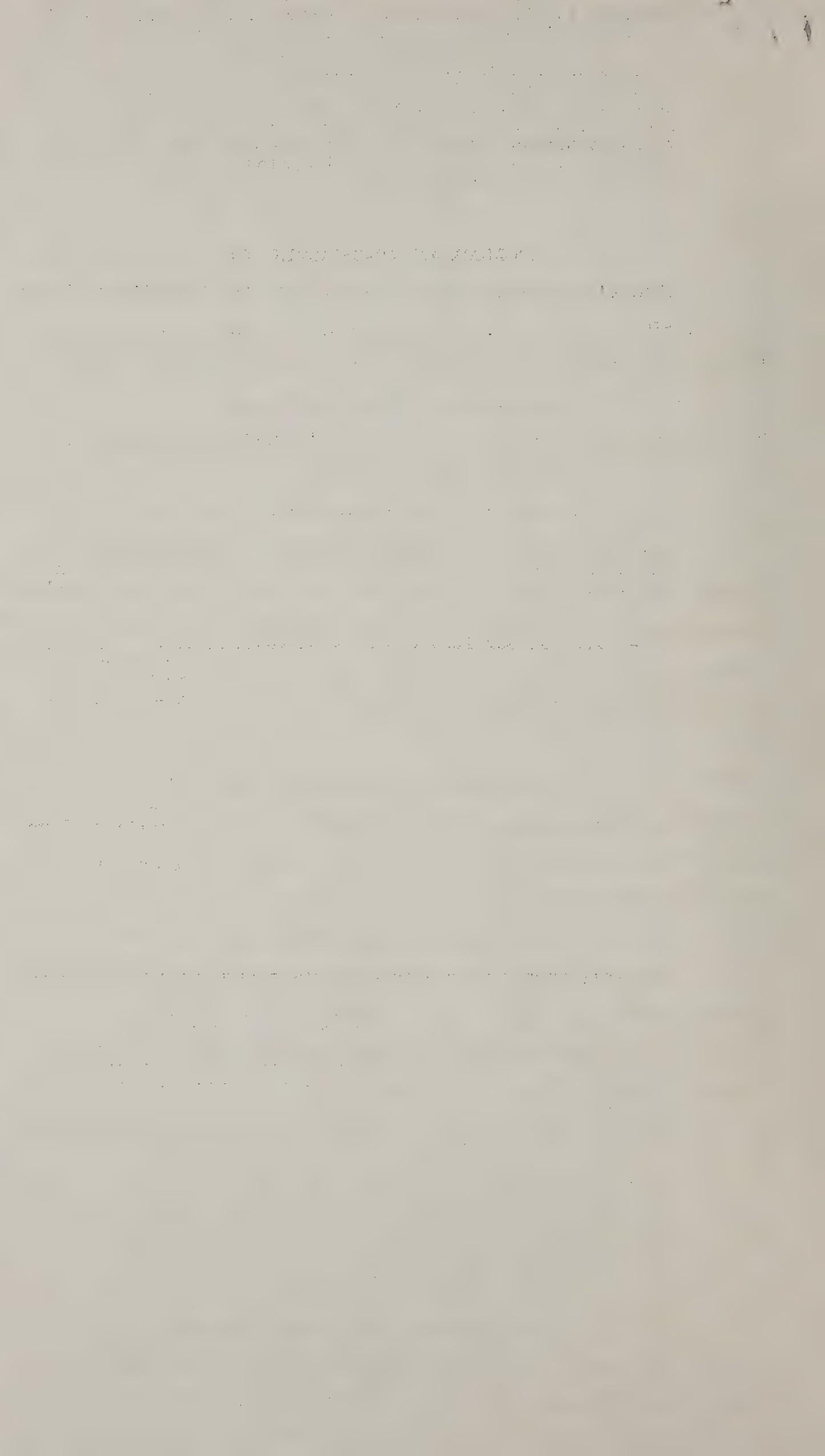
With the votes all cast and counted, foreign language editors in America enjoy the same clarified vision that came to their English language contemporaries as soon as the campaign result was known. They now can see that the triumph of Coolidge and Dawes on November 4 was "natural and inevitable."

The Czech DENNI HLASATEL, of Chicago, towers alone in its Democratic faith that "the result would have been different if only the party had been wise enough to nominate Al Smith.... New York, Illinois and Indiana would have gone Democratic and brought triumph to the whole party ticket."

COOLIDGE AND CONSERVATISM WON

Many other editors seem to agree with the Republican Slovak journal, SLOVENSKE NOVINY, of Youngstown, that in this country "a Democratic victory is only a matter of luck, while a Republican victory is in the regular course of events." Big and little details are interestingly combined in this editor's reflections on the subject:

What brought about this magnificent victory? In the first place the huge reduction of government expenses effected by the Republicans. Secondly, the paying off of the country's debts. Thirdly, the immense reductions in the income tax. That formed the policy which brought welfare to the country.... Not long ago we received from the government a check for 75 cents. Those 75 cents represented one-quarter of our income tax. The government refunded one-fourth of the tax. What government on earth refunds taxes to its citizens? None except the American, the Republican Government. Other governments increase taxes - the American Government reduces them.



"The slogan of 'Prosperity'" won for President Coolidge, according to the Republican Jewish MORNING JOURNAL, of New York, which finds that "the average American workingman laughs when he hears phrases such as 'economic slavery', knowing that through his trade union he is obtaining the best possible return for his labor and cannot better himself by political change." And "this imposing victory of Calvin Coolidge gives food for thought to those who base their slogans upon dissatisfaction arising out of the unavoidable 'injustices' of our political, social and economic life," thinks the Republican Hungarian SZABADSAG, of Cleveland.

PERSONAL VICTORY FOR THE PRESIDENT

In phrases almost identical, the Hungarian paper just quoted, the independent German CORRESPONDENT, of Baltimore, the Republican Finnish UUTISET, of New York and the independent Polish WIADOMOSCI CODZIENNE, of Cleveland, contend that the election result was "a personal victory for President Coolidge" rather than a vote of confidence in the Republican party. Third party appeals fell upon deaf ears, according to another independent Polish paper, the DZIENNIK ZWIAZKOWY, of Chicago, because "the people always prefer the gray sparrow in the cage to the golden canary on the rooftop."

An opposite view is stated with emphasis by the Ukrainian SVOBODA, of Jersey City (independent), which holds that "it was not a personal success by President Coolidge, but a definite victory of the Republican party." And "it means that during the next four years America will mind its own business; it means a high tariff, restriction of immigration and isolation from European war and peace making. It means also high wages, high cost of living, and other Republican ways of rendering the country prosperous."

Instead of a personal victory, it was "the moneyed interests and the advance in the price of wheat" that beat LaFollette and elected Coolidge, according to the independent SLOVAK v AMERIKA, of New York. And the Czech SPRAVEDLNOST, of Chicago, (independent) believes that the President "fades into the background of the picture, leaving the center to be held by the triumphant reactionary elements." "Millions of dollars backed Coolidge," says the independent Lithuanian DRAUGAS, of Chicago, and "with money and an influential press his victory was assured."

Radicalism -and The Klan

NAS DOM, an independent Slovene paper of New York City, gives four reasons for the Coolidge victory. First, that "the real American is a determined opponent of everything bearing the labels of radicalism, socialism, communism or any other 'ism'". Secondly, "Republicans spread the notion that LaFollette's party was composed chiefly of foreign born persons, and since certain strata of the population are very hostile to the foreign born this manoeuvre won the Republicans many thousands if not millions of votes." Thirdly, "the drys and the Ku Klux Klan were both opposed to the Democrats and to the Progressives and did everything possible to aid their protectors, the Republicans. And the fourth reason lay in the millions of dollars which the Republican Party had at its disposal."

Another paper which thinks "the Ku Klux Klan contributed to the great victory of the Republican party," is the independent Hungarian AMERIKAI MAGYAR NEPSZAVA, of New York. And, "those elements against whom the Ku Klux Klan has directed attacks will not rejoice in the victory of the Republican party," adds the independent Lithuanian VIENYBE, of Brooklyn. Although "three million members of the Klan" backed the President, according to the Russian NOVOYE RUSSKOYE SLOVO (independent), of New York, the editor of the independent Jewish DAY, also New York, is confident that that since the President "has now become the leader of his party and of the country.... he will utter some strong and unmistakeable things against the Klan."

HONESTY AND COMMON SENSE

To the statement, repeated by many papers, that the common sense of the voters and of the Republican party won the election, the nominally Republican German HEROLD, of Milwaukee, retorts that "the American people seem to set common sense above honesty, temporarily at least, or to think that honesty has nothing whatever to do with politics." The Republican Swedish AMERILANEREN, of Chicago, believes "the people have made a wise choice," but two other papers in the same language group sound a warning against over-capitalization of the party victory. SVEA (Republican), of Worcester, hopes the President "will succeed in giving us a better and a cleaner Republican party during the next four years," while

the Republican TPIBUNEN NYHETER, of Chicago, holds that "progressive ideas live, and if these ideas are adopted and realized by the Republicans the party will maintain its political power. If, on the other hand, reaction is given scope, then the grace of the people will be lost and it won't be long before power is placed in other hands." A Democratic paper, the Polish NOWINY POLSKIE, of Milwaukee, also hopes during the next four years "to see President Coolidge not in the guise of a sphinx, but as an energetic, courageous, unbiased and just President." To that hope it adds a plea for more liberal immigration and participation in the League of Nations, saying: "Without cheap workers and without cooperation with other nations in the League, the United States cannot hope for development of its industry and commerce."

WARN THE PRESIDENT AGAINST WAR

"In one of his last campaign speeches," says the independent German STAATSZEITUNG, of New York, "President Coolidge suggested changing Armistice Day to Peace Memorial Day, in order to promote the outlawing of war. Statements of that kind are nothing new," the paper adds, "since we have heard them before and were immediately after hurled into the bloodiest war in history," but "our government can do much to foster peace, even though it has done nothing in that direction as yet." Peace is also a theme of the independent German FREIE PRESSE fuer TEXAS, of San Antonio, which hopes that the President "will be strong enough to resist the demand for war that obviously rules some of our people, and is the greatest danger threatening our country at present."

Several editors share a view expressed by the independent Polish NOWY SWIAT, of New York, that "the overwhelming victory of the Republicans cannot fail to have an effect upon those nations which are convinced that the Coolidge administration will continue to hold its officially isolated attitude toward Europe, and at the same time continue its 'bloodless' and 'peaceful' financial conquest of Europe and the rest of the world." However, NOWY SWIAT continues:

One must not overvalue this influence. Neither the conservatives in Europe nor the reactionaries in America, in spite of their seeming power, have their hands entirely free to do as they please. The Labor Party in Great Britain opposes the conservatives more powerfully than ever, while in America the Republicans are opposed not only by the Democrats but by the steadily growing body of LaFollette followers. All foreign countries will not swing to the 'right' in consequence of our election, not being sure that they would not have to return to the 'left' after a short while."

Sentiment among the papers which supported the LaFollette coalition ranges from anger against "the stupid public" to rejoicing over the size of the third party vote and confidence in the future. According to the Socialist Jewish FORWARD, of New York, "the bulk of the people, by its vote, has declared itself to be the slave of Wall Street, the cowardly, obedient servant of the money bags." But the independent Ukrainian NARODNA WOLA, of Scranton, finds that "a potent progressive force, five millions strong, is already here, more than enough to transform a 'movement' into a political party of labor." And the Lithuanian DIRVA (independent), of Cleveland, is glad "that many voters are not in sympathy with the two leading political parties."

"The temporary victory of plutocracy cannot discourage the true progressive," the independent German TAGEBLATT, of Philadelphia assures us. These new party pioneers, says the nominally Republican WESTEN (German), of Minona, Minn., are "like the founders of the Republican party, who also were not able to take over the reins of government at the first attempt." Other editors employ the same analogy, the independent German HEROLD, of New York, recalling that after the old "Whig party had played an ambiguous part in the slavery agitation, the opponents of slavery founded the present Republican party and the Whigs disappeared." The third party failure "was due to lack of funds and organization", and convinces the Lithuanian Socialist NAUJIENOS, of Chicago, that "a permanent party is necessary for success."

"The LaFollette radicalism gave the Republicans a strong position as the defenders of the Constitution," the Republican Jewish DAILY NEWS, of New York, finds, and its Democratic contemporary the Slovene AMERISKA DOMOVINA, of Cleveland agrees that "LaFollette made his greatest mistake when he joined hands with the Socialists." Although it did not support the Wisconsin senator during the campaign, the independent Italian CORRIERE D'AMERICA, of New York, outlines a familiar viewpoint when it says:

We in America have had a very slight touch of the phenomenon which in Great Britain has exhausted the Liberal party. If in America there should arise a formidable Labor party, the Republicans and Democrats would probably be compelled to unite in order to fight the newcomer, but as yet the people of the United States remain loyal to the classic tradition of the two parties.

The LaFollette movement, however, "was backed by such different groups and varying interests," remarks the Swedish ARBETAREN (Socialist Labor Party), of New York, "that it was doomed to failure and dissolution even though it had registered many times the votes that it actually polled." Still farther to the 'left', among papers of communist persuasion, there is no more sympathy for the third party failure than there was support of it during the campaign. Only the Russian Workers' party paper, NOVY MIR, of New York, thinks "it must be admitted that this party has developed some strength," since "its four million votes are four times as many as the Socialist party ever received." The Lithuanian LAISVE, of Brooklyn; Jewish FREIHEIT, of New York and Croatian RADNIK, of Chicago, all three organs of the Workers' party, believe that "the LaFollette movement cost the Workers' party many thousands of votes," that "the power of Wall Street is mightier as a result of the election," which gave fresh evidence of "the power of the big capitalists." A general sentiment prevailing in this group is expressed by the German VOLKSZEITUNG, of New York, when it says:

The Socialist party made an experiment by bartering the working class and Socialism for practical politics. They have got rid of Socialism, but no one will maintain that their LaFollette politics was exactly practical," whereas, "the Workers' party received in Greater New York, according to still incomplete returns, 5,600 votes. Certainly not a large vote, but still a beginning.

ABIDING BY THE RESULT

Satisfaction is voiced by the independent German FREIE PRESSE, of Cincinnati, that "our economic life need not fear any grave disturbances from ill-considered legislation," and it urges that the future be used for a combined efforts to make "the country grow, flourish and prosper." Even the German WESTLICHE POST, of St. Louis, which is friendly to LaFollette, thinks "it is a good thing that the victory of the Republican party is complete enough to remove all doubt and uncertainty."

Many foreign language editors are impressed by the fact that Americans quickly accept the popular verdict at the end of a

heated campaign. "We admire the way our American politicians bury the hatchet after elections," says the independent Slovak NARODNE NOVINY, of Pittsburgh. "The losers congratulate the winners.... All keep on paying their taxes and working for the good of their country. We Slovaks can learn a good lesson here." Like admiration of the same trait is voiced by the Republican Italian paper, IL PROGRESSO ITALO-AMERICANO, of New York, which says:

It is wonderful to see in America that on the day after election vanquished and victors alike bow to the recognized head of the nation, and discipline, order and loyalty rule as before. This characteristic of the American people is the strongest proof that they deserve a republic, and is the highest prestige of which the Stars and Stripes can boast.

The election result "is sad to contemplate" for the independent Czech AMERICAN, of Cleveland, but it believes that "the decision of the majority of the nation is the highest postulate country and by its decree the entire/must be regulated."

FOREIGN LANGUAGE INFORMATION SERVICE

"To interpret America to the Immigrant
and the Immigrant to America"

119 WEST FORTY-FIRST STREET, NEW YORK CITY

EDITORIAL DIGEST

OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS IN AMERICA

(The following digest is issued by the Foreign Language Information Service as part of its work of interpreting the immigrant to America and America to the immigrant. The Service is in daily touch with the press of sixteen foreign language groups in the United States - Czech, Danish, Finnish, German, Hungarian, Italian, Jewish, Jugoslav (Serbo-Croatian and Slovene), Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Swedish and Ukrainian. It aims to make the digest representative of current editorial comment in this press. It is an information service solely, and assumes no responsibility for the opinions expressed.)

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CHILD LABOR - SAMUEL GOMPERS

Deceased Labor Leader and Proposed Constitutional Amendment
Conspicuous Among Themes Discussed In The
Foreign Language Press.

Pertinent comment upon the life and character of Samuel Gompers and a vigorous support of the movement to forbid child labor in the United States are conspicuous at present in the editorial columns of the foreign language press. Reference to the proposed law to compel registration of aliens in America is also included among the following sentiments current in the thought of immigrant newcomers on the eve of the New Year.

GOMPERS A GREAT CONSERVATIVE

Samuel Gompers did not believe in the class struggle. He adhered to the principle that America's political and social structure gave room to adjust all controversies arising out of diverse economic interests. He had qualities, to be sure, which kept him at a little distance from some of the workman's newer problems in this day of changing social morals. This very fact, however, made it possible for him to consider all the interests of the country and to serve as a connecting link between workers and employers, when a man of more progressive thought might have done injury.... His successor will face a difficult task. He will have to bear in mind that while Mr. Gompers' conservatism was overlooked, because of his age and his long service, wage earners will now look for a policy that is really consistent with present day conceptions. - SZABADSAG, Cleveland (Hungarian, Republican)

HE KNEW THE AMERICAN WORKER

Only in recent years did we begin to see clearly that the American worker is vastly different from his fellow worker in Europe in the matter of class consciousness. Gompers understood American conditions far better than did those socialists who came later to America. At heart, however, he felt that the Socialist movement in Europe was a natural movement and was paving the way to a better future for all mankind. Yet he preferred to devote himself to practical problems and see what could be done at once for the benefit of American labor... He served the working class honestly and loyally, in accordance with his own convictions. Let us bare our heads at the bier of this man! FORWARD, New York, (Jewish, Socialist)

WHY THE JEWS HLD BACK

The plasterer, who was getting for his day's work almost as much as he received for a week thirty years ago, appreciated much better what Gompers had done for labor than the cloakmaker, who complains that he was better off in former days. This is one reason why Gompers, although of Jewish origin himself, did not have such a following among Jewish workers as among the non-Jewish workers. Our workers are more inclined to be pessimistic because of their ceaseless effort to get out of the working class altogether so that only social and political plans which embrace the people as a whole can enthuse our working masses.... The pessimism prevailing among Jewish workers as a whole, rather than their socialism, was responsible for their difference with Gompers. The best proof of this is seen in the fact that the hundreds of radical Jewish unions and the tens of thousands of anti-Gomperites in their ranks did not produce a single leader of their own. Forty years of their movement brought out a few writers and political campaigners but not one labor leader to personify the program of the Jewish workers as Gompers embodied the American labor program. - MORNING JOURNAL, (Jewish, Republican).

PROSPECTS UNDER PRESIDENT GREEN

William Green, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers, has been elected to succeed Mr. Gompers as President of the American Federation of Labor. He represents the largest union in the Federation, having 4,000 votes out of the total of 30,000. Green stands midway between the right and the left wings of the Federation. He is known as a champion of progressive labor legislation and has expressed himself in favor of public ownership of railroads. On the other hand, he strongly opposes the Third International and it was upon his motion that the Communists were expelled from the Federation. Mr. Green is an active member of the Democratic party and has been a delegate to most of the party conventions. It will be interesting to see whether his election will bring the Democratic party nearer to conforming with the demands of labor, or whether his partisanship will influence the policy of the Federation. NARODNA WOLA, Scranton. (Ukrainian, Independent).

"AN OPEN SORE"

Child labor in the United States is an open sore. This is probably the only democratic country in the world where the problem is so nearly ignored. Although nearly all the individual States have compulsory education laws for children from 14 to 16 years, these laws are seldom enforced. There are some factories filled with children of that age, and there are employers without heart or conscience... When a child takes the place of a grown person in industry, a good citizen cannot develop from that child, and society cannot expect to recruit a healthy member of the social family.... If there are some unfortunate or careless parents who compel their children to labor for wages the state should step in and take the part of guardian for such children. - DRUGAS, Chicago (Lithuanian, Republican).

CALL IT A WORKING CLASS MEASURE

Child labor is one of the foremost issues in American economic life, and the problem has become still more acute with the restriction of immigration and the need of manufacturers to look for new hands among our youth.... Opponents of the amendment to prohibit child labor fear that a really effective protection for the child worker would lead to a demand from the adult workers that they also be protected. Let us imagine that it is possible to prohibit the employment of children under the age of eighteen. How are children under that age to dispose of their time? Simply to loaf about the streets would not be the right thing. It follows that they must be given an opportunity to study, perhaps to gain a better and broader education than they are now obtaining in the public schools. More than that: They will not only have to study,

but also be fed and clothed, which means that their parents will have to help them. And that leads inevitably to a state of affairs in which the wages of the older workers must be increased and their working conditions improved... Although the pretense that the child labor amendment is Socialism and would undermine the authority of parents is nothing more than humbug, it is obvious that through it the working class may win a great deal and the capitalists lose a great deal. - FREIHEIT, New York (Jewish, Workers' Party)

SUPPLEMENTING THE FATHER'S WAGE

Congress should first of all concern itself with bettering the earnings of working men generally, so that they might provide better for their children. In many families there is a need to take the earnings of the child because the parent does not earn enough to support his family. No one will contend that parents would wilfully exploit their children in industry. It is the unfair conditions imposed upon the parents at their work that often forces the younger children to labor. - TEVYNE, New York City (Lithuanian, Independent).

The immigrant masses, especially the Italians, contribute heavily to the toils of child labor. The fault is not that of the parents, but of the wages which are so low that they do not permit a father to support his children decently and keep them in school... A law to restrict the employment of children would lead the country toward Socialism - IL LABORATORE, Chicago (Italian, Workers' Party).

THE "PERSONAL LIBERTY" PLEA

Last summer it appeared almost certain that the child labor amendment would be ratified by a sufficient number of States, but a sudden and unexpected opposition has developed, not only from the employing interests but from political interests as well. Opponents of the amendment admit that it is a crime against childhood that over a million children (according to the last Census) should be working for a living in American industry, but they now express a fear lest Congress be given too much power to regulate private business. They denounce the measure in behalf of children as an infringement of personal liberty.

It is very remarkable, this solicitude for our personal liberty!.... Congress has the sole right to declare war, yet when some idealists proposed that the people be allowed to decide issues of war and peace by means of a referendum they were howled down as traitors by the very same association of manufacturers which is opposing the child labor amendment. Why was nothing said about personal liberty when the question of killing our children was concerned, and so much said about it when an effort is made to protect them? Obviously our captains of industry regard personal liberty as synonymous with personal dividends. This is not so strange, but why do some of our most liberal papers oppose the amendment? - JEWISH WORLD, Cleveland (Democratic).

REGISTRATION OF ALIENS

From compulsory registration of aliens to the enforced carrying of passports - following the example of the Tsar - is only a step. Such an enforced registration would certainly smack strongly of tsarism, but on the other hand a democratic people is free to make rules for all who dwell in its country. It would seem that the time is approaching when the only way out will be for the alien to become a citizen of the country in which he lives so comfortably and feels so much more at home than in the country from which he came. When the host courteously invited us to enter his home and hospitably offered to make us one of his own, we treated the invitation lightly. Now, offended, he says: "Either enter or I will shut the door in your face..." ... In one's home one has the right to do as one pleases, and sometimes even the best of hosts will turn arrogant and stubborn. - MONITOR CLEVELANDSKI, (Cleveland, (Polish, Independent)).

CLAMORING FOR CITIZENSHIP

One of the reasons assigned by our foreign born secretary of labor for advocating the un-American measure to register all alien residents and compel them to carry about identification cards (a euphemism for passports) is that the money raised in registration fees would be used to Americanize the foreigner and prepare him for citizenship... According to Mr. A. Merton Sturgess, director of naturalization for the New York district, 40,000 aliens were naturalized in the territory under his jurisdiction from March 1 to November 30, 1924... There are 20,000 more applicants waiting for their final papers, but under the present system of handling applicants, papers can be granted to only 150 a week.

Why? Let Mr. Sturgess explain. "The Naturalization Court sits only on Mondays," he says. "The judges are doing the best they can. There is not floor space enough to handle the crowds. Some arrangement should be made by which more aliens could face more judges more than one day a week." Now the Bureau of Naturalization is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor, whose present head never wearies of professing his desire to have the immigrant naturalized. Why then does he not make provision for greater naturalization facilities in New York and elsewhere? -
THE DAY, New York, (Jewish, Democratic)

